JOHN BULL

Vol. XVI. No. 404. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1914. ONE PENNY

[Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

480666

For meaning of this No. see page iii. of Cover.

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

£1,562

IN

BULLETS

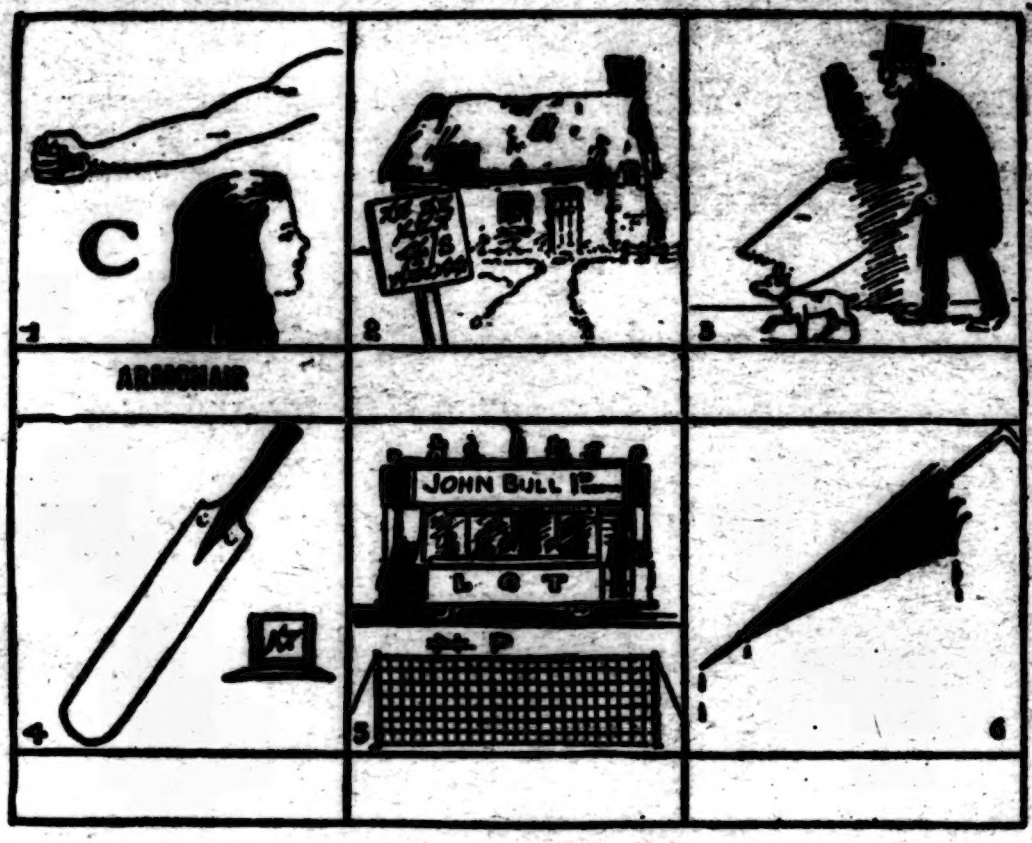
PRIZES

THIS WEEK

SEE PAGE 28.

WHAT DO THESE PICTURES REPRESENT?

I am giving away a £10 note and 300 other prizes in a simple picture competition, "Homelets," specially for you to enter. Below are six pictures representing articles and combinations to be found in the home. What you have to do is to write in the spaces provided what you think each picture represents. You can use the free set below. There will be a few sets only. Get the second set in MARY BULL, on sale Friday, February 27th. Even if you do not get them all right you may yet win the £10 note, and there are 300 Consolation Gifts. MARY BULL.



1 ARMCHAIR 2 3

4 5 6

Name..... Address.....

PICTURE COMPETITION

"HOMELETS"

NOTHING TO PAY.

FIRST PRIZE £10 NOTE.

300 OTHER VALUABLE PRIZES.

Watches, Brooches, Bangles, &c.

YOU CAN USE THIS FREE SET.

Having filled in the names of the articles you think these pictures represent

SEE

MARY BULL

On sale Friday, February 27th.

If your newsagent is sold out ASK HIM TO GET IT FOR YOU

FIRST READ THIS.
If you predict the "Home" Team will win put in ink a X in the Home Column; if you predict the "Away" Team will win put a X in the Away Column. For Draws put a X in the Draw Column.

John Bull
ENTRANCE FORM.

Matches to be played Saturday, Mar. 7th.

HOME.	AWAY.	DRAW.	HOME TEAM.		AWAY TEAM.
			Sheffield W.	v.	Aston Villa
			West H. or L'pool	v.	Q.P. Rangers
			Sunderland	v.	Burnley
			Manchester City	v.	Sheffield United
			Bradford City	v.	Everton
			Tottenham H.	v.	Preston N.E.
			Middlesbrough	v.	Chelsea
			Barnsley	v.	Clapton Orient
			Blackpool	v.	Grimsby Town
			Bury	v.	Leeds City
			Fulham	v.	Notts County
			Huddersfield T.	v.	Bristol City
			Leicester Fosse	v.	Bradford
			Notts Forest	v.	Woolwich Arsenal
			Bristol Rovers	v.	Norwich City
			Merthyr Town	v.	Watford
			Plymouth A.	v.	Crystal Palace
			Southampton	v.	Reading
			Cardiff City	v.	Northampton
			Millwall	v.	Brighton & Hove

I enter "JOHN BULL" Football Competition in accordance with the rules announced on this page and agree to accept the Editor's published decision as final and legally binding, and enter on that understanding.

Signed.....

Address.....

.....

13 Entrance Forms must be cut, not torn out.

READ RULES CAREFULLY.

NOTE METHOD OF MARKING COUPON.

To safeguard the interests of our competitors we have adopted the following new rule for marking the Entrance Form:—If you predict the Home Team will win, put a X in the Home Column; if you give the Away Team to win, put a X in the Away Column. For a Draw put a X in the Draw Column.

1. Having done this, write in ink (typewriting or pencilling will not do) your name and address in the space provided, cut out the Entrance Form, and address it to "John Bull," 95, Fleet Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C., mark envelope in top left-hand corner, Football Contest, No. 13, so as to reach us not later than Friday, March 6th.

2. The sum of £1,500 will be paid to the Competitor whose entrance form contains the correct results, as published in the *Sporting Life*, of all the matches given played to a finish on March 7th. Should it happen that no entrance form be received giving the whole of the correct results, a cash prize of £500 will be paid to the Competitor whose coupon shows one error only. In the unlikely event of neither the £1,500 nor the £500 being won, we shall in any event pay the sum of £150 to the competitor sending in the most correct forecasts, whatever the number; and £50 to the sender of the most correct forecasts on a mauve coupon taken from *Mary Bull*. If the sender of a mauve coupon should win or share the £1,500, or the £500 or £150, the *Mary Bull* prize will be awarded to the sender of the next most correct forecasts sent on a mauve coupon. In the event of the £1,500 or £500 prizes being won, the £150 prize will, of course, not be awarded. The £50 mauve coupon prize will be paid in any event.

4. No responsibility will be accepted by the Editor for the loss or non-delivery of any effort. No correspondence will be entered into, neither will interviews be granted.

5. Any effort on which any alteration has been made will be disqualified.

6. In the event of a tie or ties in this Competition, the £1,500, the £500 or the contingent prize of £150, as well as the special £50 mauve coupon Prize, will be equally divided.

7. Our employees are strictly debarred from entering this contest.

THE CLOSING DATE IS FRIDAY, MARCH 6th.

SCOTTISH READERS MAY NOW ENTER.

DUPLICATE COUPON.

The following duplicate list of the matches is printed solely for the convenience of competitors desirous of keeping a record of their efforts. It must on no account be sent in, and will not be accepted as proof of forecasts made on the Entrance Form.

H	A	D	TEAMS	H	A	D	TEAMS
			Sheffield W. v. Aston Villa				Fulham v. Notts County
			West H. or L'pool v. Q.P.R.				Huddersfield T. v. Bristol C.
			Sunderland v. Burnley				Leicester F. v. Bradford
			Manchester C. v. Sheffield U.				Notts F. v. Woolwich A.
			Bradford City v. Everton				Bristol R. v. Norwich C.
			Tottenham H. v. Preston N.E.				Merthyr Town v. Watford
			Middlesbrough v. Chelsea				Plymouth A. v. Crystal P.
			Barnsley v. Clapton O.				Southampton v. Reading
			Blackpool v. Grimsby T.				Cardiff City v. Northampton
			Bury v. Leeds City				Millwall v. Brighton & H.

JOHN BULL.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

Vol. XVI. No. 404. Week ending Saturday, February 28th. 1914. One Penny.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Letters must be addressed to the Editor or the Publisher, according to whether they relate to Editorial or Publishing matters. All **FINANCIAL, INSURANCE** *and* **SPORTING** *inquiries should be addressed to the* **CITY OFFICES, 52, NEW BROAD STREET, E.C.** *All other communications should be addressed to* **93, LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.**

All remittances, applications for advertising space, subscriptions, orders, etc., should be addressed to Odhams Limited, 93 and 94, Long Acre, London, W.C.

£10 REWARD.

Wanted, the Copy of "John Bull" for FEB. 21st, 1914, bearing on its Cover the Number 874,106.

Apply THE MANAGER, "JOHN BULL," 93, Long Acre, London, W.C.

THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[*The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.*]

The By-Elections.

There is not much for either "side" to shout about. So far as South Bucks and Bethnal Green are concerned, the voting, allowing for alterations in the registers, shows very little change. The slightest variation, however, in such a small electorate as that of Bethnal Green would automatically endanger the seat, and the defeat of Mr. Masterman is thus accounted for; although it is obvious that the prestige of Cabinet rank, which in ordinary circumstances would have secured him many new votes, was counteracted by other influences—as to which we speak elsewhere. In a way, we are sorry for the young fellow; but we shall continue to pursue him until he apologises for that wicked Akbar Reformatory Report. Poplar was the worst blow for the Government. Giving its candidate credit for the total Socialist vote (which is a big order), the Liberal majority was severely shaken—but the personal equation, in such an election, counts for much.

The Crisis—Latest.

From the *Daily Telegraph*:—"Arrangements have been made for a chess match between the House of Commons and the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge."

The Party Press.

Did you notice the headlines of the Party papers about the by-elections? The Radical organs described the slight reduction of the South Bucks Unionist poll as a "Greatly reduced Tory majority"—and referred to an equal rise in the Bethnal Green Unionist vote as "An absurd result"; whilst, of course, the Tory journals shrieked about the "smashing blows" to the Government. As regards Poplar, the chance, of course, was too good to miss. By adding the Liberal and Socialist votes together the result was proclaimed by the Government Press as "an increased majority for Home Rule"—nothing being said about the *decreased* majority for the Insurance Act. The Tory papers, on the other hand, took no account of the Labour vote, and found only a "smashing blow" and a "narrow squeak" for the Ministry. *What* a game it is!

The Premier's Obsession.

Mr. Asquith has added another "good young man" to his ministry. This time it is Mr. Charles Roberts, M.P.—"good," as Dizzy once said of Gladstone, "in the worst sense of the word." He always arrives at the House with a portfolio full of Blue books—mostly on the Temperance question—and he speaks with the voice of the fanatic. A fine, well set up chap, it was pitiful, in our view, to watch him wasting his manhood on maudlin and morbid "isms." Unlike some of his goody-goody colleagues, however, he is unquestionably sincere and honest—and so we wish him luck. What an obsession Mr. Asquith has for "the good young man"!

Exit Clough the Lowly.

So the Skipton Saint, Mr. Wm. Clough, M.P., is to retire—which is tidings of comfort and joy. Describing himself as "a disciple of the meek and lowly Jesus," he has, upon at least two occasions, distinguished himself by physical assaults upon his political opponents. His retirement will relieve the House of one of its most repellent personalities.

Our Competitions.

Our contemporaries are evidently "feeling the draught" of our competitions; and several of them, under the lead of *Answers*, are beginning to find excuses for abandoning competitions altogether. Some of the reasons given are extremely amusing. We must not, however, suggest that the fact of 141 persons having correctly foretold the results in our contemporary's last football competition has had anything to do with its sudden determination. By the way, how would Lewis, the leg-puller, and his anti-gambling colleagues have got on if they had laid the odds—according to their own calculations—to each of these 141 persons?

Another Single Week Contest, £1,500 for an All-Correct Coupon. See page 31.

Where's Our Whip?

At 10.30 p.m. on a dark night, Ethel Birks, an eighteen year old girl, was walking home along Thornton Lodge Road, Huddersfield, when she was accosted and insulted by a man some years older than herself. Ignoring the stranger's impertinent approaches, she was seized by the arm and dragged some distance along the road, the fellow covering her mouth with his hand to stifle her cries for assistance. Ultimately, both fell to the ground—when, happily for the girl, assistance was forthcoming. For this dastardly work, Frank Mallinson, a grocer's assistant, of Crosland Moor, was fined ten shillings by the Huddersfield Magistrate, his only excuse being that he was the worse for drink at the time. His Worship appears to have recognised that the sentence imposed was miserably inadequate, for he thought fit to felicitate the defendant upon having "got off lightly." Huddersfield fathers will note the price of their daughters' honour.

The Westrels.

One of the tasks of a Business Government will be to institute a drastic reform in Parliamentary procedure. The much talked of congestion of business in the House of Commons is largely traceable to the fact that there is no serious attempt to economise the available time. There is no earthly reason why a fortnight or more should be wasted at the outset of each Session upon the so-called Debate on the Address, a parade of pompous futilities whereby the business of the nation is not advanced one iota. After a brief resumé of the political situation, members should be permitted to get to work upon the Estimates without delay. Their pent up eloquence should be curbed until, in due season, their pet nostrums come up for discussion. A fortnight of sonorous talk which leads nowhere, and is devoid of practical import, would have no place in a "Business" assembly.

"The Shell and the Oyster."

By an unaccountable slip of the pen, we last week attributed to Mr. Justice Horridge, in the case of Godfrey v. Ebner, the remark that: "If ever there was a case in which the plaintiff had reason to wish he had never been born and the defendant to wish he were dead, this is one." The utterance was, in fact, that of Mr. Justice Scrutton, who presided at the trial, and although the comment we made was in intent and meaning *une chose en raillerie*, we hereby present ourselves as a sight for gods and men in sackcloth and ashes, and express our sincere apology and regret to Mr. Justice Horridge for putting the wig of Mr. Justice Scrutton upon his innocent head. Probably Mr. Justice Scrutton had in his mind—at any rate, we had in ours—a saying of Voltaire that he only regretted going to law twice in his life—once when he lost his case, and once when he won.

Two More Panel Doctors.

What does the General Medical Council, so strict in its definitions of professional misconduct when it is a paltry affair of "advertising" or "covering," propose to do in the case of Doctors Empey and Ward, of Cowling, in Yorkshire? According to an inquiry instituted by the West Riding Insurance Committee, these very enterprising practitioners, having contracted to accept patients on their panel at a certain price under the Insurance Act, not only demanded and received payment from them for medicines and treatment but sent in bills, while Dr. Ward "only consented to sign the ticket (of a panel patient) on the patient agreeing to pay additional charges." It is shameful that medical practitioners of this brand should be allowed to feather their nests under the Act in so grossly improper a fashion. They ought to be cut out of it altogether.

Women's Wrongs.

A female applicant at the Acton Police Court recently voiced a distinct matrimonial grievance. Her married life was saddened by the fact that her husband, though willing to feed and shelter her, yet stubbornly refused to provide her with the means to clothe herself in decency and comfort. The magistrate was unable to assist the distressed lady, and could only suggest that she should go quietly to a solicitor and seek his learned guidance. It is hardly likely that a woman so situated would have spare cash to fritter away in lawyer's fees, and we can scarcely compliment the learned magistrate upon the sagacity of his advice. Ladies in regular receipt of comfortable "pin-money" from their devoted and well-to-do spouses may find some difficulty in appreciating the position of the working-class wife, who after the disbursement of strictly necessary household expenses, has not a penny to call her own. For all the shrieks of "advanced" spinsterhood, the married woman on the lowest social plane has probably as rough a time as any of her sex.

A Peeping Judge.

Mrs. Florence Caroline Brown, who recently figured as respondent in a divorce suit, behaved on the day of judgment with the utmost indiscretion. During the luncheon interval she passed out into the quadrangle of the Law Courts, and there shook her finger at the co-respondent, talked excitedly to her little boy, hung on to a man's arm, and did a number of other naughty things. But the eye of the law was upon her, for a window overlooked the quadrangle and behind the window, unseen yet all-seeing, stood Mr. Justice Bargrave Deane! His Lordship was so perturbed by the spectacle, and by the woman's subsequent explanations, that he declined to proceed further with the case that day. Declaring himself "very much prejudiced," he directed a lengthy adjournment. We sympathise with his Lordship and suggest that, in the interests of all parties, it might be well if the case were transferred to the President's list. Prejudice dies hard.

Sabbatarian Eggs.

On two successive Saturday evenings recently a lady residing in Flempton, near Bury St. Edmunds, sent her maid to the local farmhouse to purchase some eggs, which she paid for on the understanding that they were to be supplied with the milk (called for) on Sunday morning. "On the third application," says our informant, "the vendor stated that, being Sunday, eggs could not be supplied from the farm. The would-be purchaser, not to be outdone, obtained the next supply on Saturday evening on trust, and sent a message the following morning regretting that, being Sunday, she could not pay for them." The hens have now held a meeting and have unanimously resolved that in future they will refuse to lay eggs between Saturday night and Monday morning.

A Frantic Flight.

Frank Townley, a twelve-year-old inmate of the Lostock Junction Industrial School, near Bolton, ran away from the institution, and endured severe hardship in his frantic efforts to elude pursuit. He climbed into a railway van and shut himself into a locker, hiding thus for three days without food, drink, or sleep. Ultimately, he was found in a famished and exhausted condition, and triumphantly carried back to the school by the Head Master. The penalty of so dire an offence can only be imagined, but what can have induced the little fellow to make such an heroic bid for freedom? Was it his present treatment, or did the prospect of slavery in the Welsh hills inflame that passion for flight?

Result of Our No. 11 Football Contest. See page 5.

A Ridiculous Case.

What the solicitor for the defence inadequately described as "a ridiculous case" has been before the magistrates at Eastbourne, the defendant being a shopkeeper named Leighton. The summons against him was for "exhibiting and selling certain pictures and printed matter of an indecent nature." The facts concerned two postcards. One depicts a fat woman, in a green costume, sitting on the knees of a thin youth, who is exclaiming, "Greater love hath no man than this"; the other shows a curate and a lady in a blue evening dress some distance apart on a settee. "What is your favourite hymn?" he asks. "Nearer to thee this night," she responds. The worst the Town Clerk, who prosecuted, could say of them was that they "might simply be called vulgar," and that "anyone reading the inscriptions might feel hurt." Apart from the matter of taste, they have no more relation to the summons than have the Goodwin Sands to Tenterden Steeple. The prosecution was nothing more than a preposterous abuse of the machinery of the law, and the magistrates, who had neither the right nor the excuse to convict, simply jockeyed the defendant into apologising and withdrawing the postcards. The sole complainant was a rev. gentleman of the name of Knowles, "formerly a missionary for the London Missionary Society," and the defendant made a mistake in allowing himself to be frightened into the course he adopted, whatever he may have done afterwards of his own free choice. It is not merely that it was "a ridiculous case"; as a matter of fact there was no case at all, and a conviction would have been quashed.

How the Poor Live.

The Workhouse Committee of the Marylebone Board of Guardians have taken a step which is likely to have far-reaching consequences. They have decided on an innovation in workhouse dietary that will excite the sympathetic dismay of the inmates of all the unions throughout the country. Rumour has it that Marylebone Workhouse already is in a ferment, and that efforts are being made by a few of the leading spirits to bring about a hunger strike. Should this attempt succeed, it will doubtless spread from one workhouse to another and result in the paralysis of the Poor Law system. It is anticipated that Mr. Will Crooks will bring the matter to the notice of the House of Commons and propose that Sir George Askwith's good offices be requisitioned to bring about a settlement. Lest some of our readers should be wondering what all the pother is about, we will relieve their suspense by stating that the Workhouse Committee referred to have decided to substitute halibut in place of turbot.

Parson and Village Inn.

Alford, in Lincolnshire, appears to have every reason for congratulating itself on the fact that it has in the Chairman of its Brewster Sessions so broad-minded and clear-sighted a parson as Canon Warren. A few days ago he was congratulating licence holders on the excellent way in which they managed their houses. "In the country villages," he said, "the man who conducts the public house has perhaps more influence and more power for good than anyone in the parish, and his example went a long way. Very often the general respectability, tone, and decency of the parish is judged by the manner in which the public house is conducted, and he for one would be very sorry to see the public house swept away from the villages." And so say all of us; all, that is, except those who think that the only salvation for the countryside consists in exclusive adoration of the parish pump.

Compulsory Welsh for Little Welshers.

This is the age of compulsion. One of its latest manifestations is the decision of the Swansea Education Committee to enforce the teaching of the Welsh language in elementary schools in Welsh districts. Our sympathies are with the little Welshers. What earthly good they are expected to derive from the compulsory acquisition of a tongue fit only for a museum of antiquities, we fail to see. This modern rage for the preservation of "little languages" constitutes one of the greatest hindrances to national consolidation and international amity. The attempted revival of Erse by a coterie of linguistic faddists in Ireland has been largely responsible for the recrudescence of Nationalist bitterness towards England and the English. Luckily for themselves, the Scotch have not been such fools as to demand the official recognition of the Gaelic. They know that a knowledge of the ancient Highland speech will never earn them a bawbee, whereas a thorough understanding of the King's English has enabled them to acquire such power in the State that in effect they rule Great Britain to-day. The Minister of Education under a Business Government would promptly veto the absurd decision of the Swansea Education Committee.

Well-Born Wastrel.

Mr. Power M. Le Poer Trench, said to be the grandson of an Earl, recently made his bow to the Mortlake Bench. Steering an automobile in serpentine fashion, this gentleman had involved himself in collison with another car at Barnes, his vagaries being subsequently traced to "the drink he had had at a restaurant in the Strand, coupled with his worries." There was a previous conviction against him in respect of a similar offence in January, 1912. In these circumstances, the Bench thought fit to impose a monetary penalty of £7, suspending the licence for six months. Yet we seem to remember a precisely similar case in which a taxi-driver received a month "without the option," his licence, which meant his living, being suspended for two years. The march of Democracy notwithstanding, it's a fine thing to be the grandson of an Earl.

Twice Told.

Practical suggestions, uttered incidentally in the course of a Government Inquiry, are lost in the ponderous blue-book which embodies its conclusions. At the Home Office Inquiry into the Senghenydd disaster, Mr. Herbert Jenkins, the Miners' Agent, advanced the suggestion that all wooden erections in coal mines should be constructed of timber which has been rendered non-inflammable. A precisely similar precaution with reference to the construction of railway coaches was mooted in the course of the inquiry into the Aisgill train smash. The matter is clearly one for expert consideration and for experiment. Mr. Burns is a practical man, and the hint should be sufficient. We leave it to him to "get a move on" McKenna.

A Pompous Prince.

King Gustave of Sweden appears to have a plentiful stock of what in a non-royal personage would be designated "cheek." Having virtually dismissed his Ministers, or at any rate precipitated their retirement by hostile criticism, he has charged a Senator of his own choosing with the task of forming a Cabinet more nearly to his august liking. It is said that, should this bold scheme fail, his Majesty will abdicate in favour of his eldest son, a statement which, if it is intended as a threat, is scarcely a compliment to the Crown Prince. Monarchs who thus attempt to reverse the course of political evolution are apt to come a bad "cropper."

Over 5,000 Cash and other "Bullets" Prizes to be Won Weekly. Page 28.

New Charge at Exeter.

It seems an offence in Exeter to be neither drunk nor "dis." One P.-c. Dooling told the Magistrates that he perceived a Mrs. Floyd being helped along the street by her daughter and son-in-law. "I told the son-in-law," said this ridiculous policeman, "to cease from helping defendant, to see if she were drunk. She then had to be assisted home by her daughter." Mrs. Floyd denied that she was drunk, the daughter and son-in-law denied that she was drunk, and an independent witness for the defence, not called, was prepared to say that she was not drunk; but the Magistrates did not think it necessary to hear him as they had decided to dismiss the case. "It is evident," said the Chairman, "that the woman was going along quietly in the care of her friends and should not have been disturbed." Of course she should not. It was a piece of flagrant fussiness occasioning the suspicion that P.-c. Dooling carries a lot of timber under his helmet. "Even if the woman was quiet," exclaimed Inspector Sanford, in the sorrow of disappointment at the magisterial comments, "the fact that she was incapable justified her arrest." As to which, all we have to say is that the Inspector's head ought to be knocked against the policeman's, if only in order to test which of them owns the more wood.

Brown's Hospital.

Brown's Hospital, in Stamford, is one of the minor charitable institutions of the country. It is, in fact, a home for eight or nine old men, and we notice from the balance sheet, published in the local *Guardian*, that the Warden and his assistant draw a combined stipend of £505 per annum, the inmates' weekly pay, inclusive, for one year being £275. The Warden has also a magnificent residence, free fuel and light, and a garden in which to recuperate his exhausted energies after his daily toil is o'er. There are other picturesque expenses in the accounts, "adopted at a meeting of the Governors," but these will serve for the moment. We don't know who Brown was, or whether he is here or elsewhere, but wherever he is it is evident the Governors do their level best to keep his memory green.

Quite Correct.

We are not disposed to deplore independent action on the part of juries, especially in relation to coroners' inquests. Inquiring into the death of a retired carpet manufacturer, aged 62, the Southwark Coroner made much of the alleged intemperate habits of the deceased. The doctors reported that death was due to apoplexy, but that there were physical traces of alcoholic indulgence. In these circumstances, the jury returned a verdict of "death from natural causes," declining to accept the suggestion that death was accelerated by hard drinking, which, to say the least, was not proven. The Coroner appears to have been considerably nettled by the jury's failure to accept his view of the matter. "That is your verdict, not mine," he declared. Quite so—as the law intended it to be.

Submarine Perils.

The First Lord of the Admiralty has officially declared that the submarines of the ill-fated A class are "safe and efficient vessels for the purposes for which they are now employed." Such "safety" must, of course, be understood relatively, and Mr. Churchill's optimistic pronouncement should be read in the light of his further statement that instructional operations in vessels of the A class, conducted within a prescribed radius of the coast, are "not more dangerous than service in the larger and later classes far out at sea." In uttering these assurances the First Lord doubtless speaks under expert guidance and with a full sense of responsibility. Despite disquieting rumour, we have confidence that he will never permit brave men to run needless risks.

A Sacred Union.

Mrs. Armina Bunyan filed a petition of divorce from her husband, and a decree nisi was pronounced in May of last year. Since then, however, the King's Proctor has been industriously delving into the lady's past and, at his instigation, a counter-charge of infidelity has now been preferred against her. In plain terms, both husband and wife had broken their marriage vows at the date of the divorce proceedings. In such circumstances, common sense surely prescribes the annulment of the marriage, with an appropriate order as to costs. The existing law, however, permits no such wholesome solution, it being apparently held that the discovery of misconduct on the part of the petitioner lends renewed sanctity to the union. Mr. Justice Bargrave Deane rescinded the decree nisi, and condemned Mrs. Bunyan in the costs of the King's Proctor. What Bedlam nonsense it is to be sure!

An Episcopal Interdict.

It appears that, in consequence of the Bishop of Manchester having expressed a wish to that effect, the Manchester Board of Guardians have stopped the exhibition of moving pictures on Sunday nights to the children of Swinton schools. Surely the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the See of Manchester doesn't extend to the Board of Guardians; if it doesn't, why is the episcopal nose of Dr. Knox interfering in matters in which it has no concern at all? The poor kiddies thoroughly enjoyed these Sunday evening pictures; and if, instead of being entertained by pictures, they are to be inflicted with extra preachments, it is a thundering shame. A public representative body like the Manchester Board of Guardians ought to be more broad-minded than to take away the innocent pleasures of a child in order to accommodate the whims of a Bishop.

Another Astounding Sentence.

Once again we have, in the case of Frederick George Green, a Fulham hairdresser, illustration of the astounding leniency of the law towards the vile brutes who assail and corrupt the bodies of little children. If ever there were a scoundrel who deserved condign punishment, it is Green. Five years ago he married the child's mother, now dead, when he was seventeen. The child is 13, and her condition is such that, according to the medical evidence, he must have been in improper relation with his wife's little daughter even during the woman's life. The scoundrel pleaded guilty. Judge Atherley Jones sentenced him to three months' imprisonment in the second division, and when Green comes out it is more or less confidently anticipated that the judge will present him with an illuminated testimonial on vellum for his magnificent services to the cause of humanity.

Classifying the Casuals.

With reference to our recent paragraph concerning the treatment of workhouse casuals, a porter tells us, out of his large experience of 3,000 cases a year, that two-thirds of the casuals in the country are soldiers, with from three to seven years' service, who would be willing to finish their 21 years and, "if allowed to do so many thousands of casuals would be taken off the road." The other third are professional knights of the road, who have decided that their country must keep them. "Taking the number of casuals on the road, the percentage of prosecutions is very small. During my seven years here I have not had six for refusing to work." We do not know how far this statement about the proportion of old soldiers accords with the actual statistical facts, but if it is anyway near the truth it is illuminating.

More Winners of Cash for Football Skill. See page 5.

An Alderman of Parts.

An exceptionally talented Alderman is revealed to us in Leeds by Councillor C. A. Glyde, Editor of the *Bradford Socialist Vanguard*, who in stating the "History of the Strike of Leeds Corporation Workers" in his pellucid paper, remarks that the Special Committee of the Leeds City Council consists of "Liberal and Tory bosses with a Tory autocrat Alderman C. H. Wilson, *alias* Cheeky Charlie, Managing Director, a coarse, blustering, vulgar, ignorant dictator, well known for his uncouth, offensive bullying, priggish domineering, and unfair treatment at all times of Labour Members of the Council." Even in municipal politics we have seldom known a man characterised among his fellow citizens by terms of such embarrassing endearment, and the least the Alderman can do is to return thanks. We feel that Mr. Glyde would speak in accents of reverence even of a centipede.

The Good Samaritan.

There ought to be one good chalk mark in favour of the Earl of Suffolk at the Day of Judgment, anyway. Two people, obviously impoverished, were charged at Malmesbury Petty Sessions, of which he is Chairman, with neglecting their child, and were discharged. There the matter might have ended, and no doubt would have ended, except for the Earl's kindly thought in instructing an officer of the court to take the child to a shop in the town and provide it with a complete outfit. Even Mr. Lloyd George ought to be able to think of something nice to say about this lord.

Below the Belt.

We have never concealed our preference for white men, but the coloured Mayor of Battersea is a man and a Britisher, and he has been elected to his position in fair and open contest; and once in the civic chair, he deserves and should enjoy, fair play. It is sickening to learn that, since his accession to office, Mr. Archer has been pursued by a regular campaign of anonymous slander, in which the lowest depths of scurrility have been reached. More than all else we regret that the Mayor should have reason to complain of the conduct of certain of his municipal colleagues.

This Parson too.

It looks as though we were setting everybody alight. Here is the Rev. E. P. Cough, Vicar of Spalding, declaring in his parish magazine that he intends to call a Church Council to consider a scheme of Church finance on business lines, conducted by business men, of whom he confesses he is not one. "This will set us clergy free for our own work, which is not dealing with money, but souls." He is right. There is no reason whatever why there should not also be a Business Government for the management of the collection plate.

Oh, for a——

Saul is now among the prophets. "Parliament has to compete for popular interest with a new and multiplying host of minor assemblies," says the *Mail*. "The payment of members has hardly added to its prestige, and the despotism of the Whip, the clear fact that Parliament is helplessly over-burdened and congested, and that its procedure needs remodelling along modern and more businesslike lines have all told against it." Yea, verily, we *are* getting on!

The London By-Elections.

We knew the London by-elections would be momentous for the fate of Empire—one of the candidates having been snapshotted for the *Daily Mirror* in the act of making a tremendous fuss over somebody's baby, and another while ecstatically inspecting somebody's beautiful bloaters.

RHYMES OF THE TIMES

THE LOGICAL LIMIT.

(The ultra-fashionable women are now donning daringly slashed gowns, revealing that the wearers are devoid of stockings.—*Paris Letter.*)

In silent admiration
We have watched the transformation
And the vagaries unending of Lovely Woman's clothes:
Since my lady started rinking,
And her skirts they started shrinking,
And far above her ankles trim they rose.

At first I thought 'twas shocking,
When a maid's transparent stocking
Caught my eye and made me blush and rudely stare:
But (see the Paris Letter)
Woman swears she'll go one better.,
And the latest style in legs is now—the bare.

And since evening dress "de rigueur"
Shrinks still lower on the figure,
All good men like you and me must deeply grieve,
If this latest mode's extended,
For it only can be ended——
I believe the lady's name was Mother Eve.

THE WEEK'S "BISCUIT."

["*Taking the Biscuit*" *has become a classic phrase, expressive of a satirical compliment. Below we present, each week, and in all good humour, the* "*Biscuit*" *to the individual, or periodical named, in respect of the achievement or utterance indicated.*]

For expressing the hope that "he might some day *see* Mr. Lloyd George in a much warmer place than the Riviera,"

LORD BRISTOL
Takes the Biscuit.

RESULT OF OUR ELEVENTH FOOTBALL COMPETITION.

Our competitors got a little bit nearer this week, but not near enough. Surely someone will do better in the attack on our £1,750, and will enable us to announce that the big prize has been won? Ten of our readers sent in coupons containing only three errors, and so share the £150, each receiving £15. Their names and addresses are as follows:—

BENNETT, S., 174, Frodingham-rd., Crosby, Scunthorpe, Lincs.; BELL, A. W., 22, Gorton-rd., Old Swan, Liverpool; CURRAN, G., 3, Day-st., Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury; MULLAN, J. M., 22, White-st., Belfast; RUSSELL, I, 15, Farnham-st., Belfast; STEWARD, H., 7, Kyme-rd., Romford, Essex; THOMAS, D., 8, Pemberton-terr., Half Way, Llanelly, Carm.; WALKER, A., 5, Elsdon-terr., Percy Main, Northumberland; WHITE, Miss Martha, Barrowdore, New onwards, Belfast; WRIGHT, W. W., 8, Grosvenor-rd., Balderton, Newark, Notts.

The £50 for the most correct forecast sent on a mauve coupon taken from "Mary Bull" is shared by the following 13 competitors, who had but four errors. Each receives £3 6s. 8d.

DONNELLY, Mrs., 12, Tyne-st., Gateshead; FOWKES, Miss Mary, 42, Brushfield-st., Hyson Green, Nottingham; HOUGHTON, Mrs., 28, Compton-cres., Chiswick; JONES, Mrs., 19, Cottage-st., Birkenhead; JONES, Mrs. Ellen, 7, Rosebery-terr., Plasmarl, Swansea; LLOYD, Miss Mary Ellen, 102, Canel-st., Derby; MORRIS, Mrs. F., The Stores, Silkstone, nr. Barnsley; OSBORNE, Mrs. M., 70, Abbott's-rd., Southall, Middx.; PRITCHARD, Mrs. Alice, 14, Beechwood-av., Wallasey, Ches.; SPENCER, Mrs. C., 3, Oxmead, Mayfield, Staffs; SIMON, Mrs. G. H., Basin-end, Nantwich, Cheshire; THOMAS, Miss Annie, 8, Imison-st., Liverpool; TOXOS, Mrs. E., Hillside, Norham-av., Shirley, Southampton; THOMPSON, Mrs. F., 34, Clifton-rd., Rugby; WALTERS, Miss J., 34, Thayer-st., Manchester-sq., W.

"JOHN BULL" AND THE STARCHFIELD CASE.

THE TRUTH ABOUT OUR INTERVENTION——THE MAGISTRATE'S PREMATURE COMMENT. INSPECTOR GOUGH'S ADMISSION——THE DEFENCE.

We have no intention of saying a word which could by any possibility prejudice the pending trial of the man Starchfield, now before Mr. Biron, the Old Street Magistrate, on a charge of having murdered his little son. He will in due course be either discharged or sent for trial, and, as law-abiding citizens, we shall await the conclusion of all legal proceedings before expressing any view, one way or the other, upon the tragedy. As already announced, we have decided—out of consideration for the man's calling and poverty, and having regard to the fact that he is a "Carnegie Hero"—to provide the necessary funds to ensure him adequate legal aid, and there, for the present, we must leave him.

THE MAGISTRATE AND OURSELVES.

We are, however, entitled to take exception to an observation made by the Magistrate last week, at the close of the evidence of a witness named Moore. And here again we will be scrupulously careful to avoid saying a word which, by any straining of language, could be construed into comment upon the pending case. Moore had, admittedly, called at our offices before he went to the police. He had left with us a signed statement. That statement we had handed over to the police. This information was unknown to Starchfield's solicitor when Moore was first called as a witness. He was accordingly recalled and questioned as to what transpired at the interviews with us. He gave his version. Never mind ours. *That* was put to him in cross-examination, and not accepted. It will be repeated on oath, by several witnesses, in due course. But this takes time—and that is why we now appeal to our readers to suspend their judgment, in regard to what has already transpired in court, till our story has been told. What we complain of is that, on hearing one side only, Mr. Biron should have declared: "If this man's evidence is true, it is a most discreditable story." It was, in our opinion, an improper observation to be made. He might just as well have said at the end of the evidence of each witness for the prosecution: "If this evidence is true, it is a very serious thing," or something even worse. Mr. Biron must know that if he has any doubt as to the truth of a witness his duty is either to send the case for trial, or, *after hearing both sides*, to dismiss it. He must know that such an observation, reported in the public Press, and in many cases without context, is calculated to do us a grievous injustice—and this, we are satisfied, is the last thing he would desire. We were unable before going to press last week—the report reached us as our machines were about to start—to do more than formally take exception to what had been said, but, as will be seen from the following correspondence, we lost no time in endeavouring to put the matter right. Let the letters speak for themselves:—

On February 17th, the Editor wrote to Mr. Biron as follows:—

> *I am sure you are the last person in the world to wish, upon an ex parte statement, to do an absent party an injustice, and I respectfully ask you to read the article in the enclosed advance copy of this week's* JOHN BULL, *from which you will see that we are personally defraying the expenses of Starchfield's defence and that any aspersion cast upon our motives is, therefore, calculated to do the accused considerable injury.*
>
> *In these circumstances, I beg to ask whether you will permit eminent Counsel to make a short statement on our behalf at the resumed hearing of the case, for the purpose of making our own position in the matter clear.*

To this the Chief Clerk replied:—

> *Mr. Biron has received your letter, and directs me to say that he can only consider applications made in open Court.*

This was answered in the following terms:—

> *I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter, and in reply to say that I have handed to Mr. Marsh's proofs of the various members of our staff who saw the witness Moore when he called at our offices, and have requested him to call them at the earliest possible date.*

And there, so far as the Moore interviews are concerned, we must leave the matter. When our witnesses have been called, we will leave public opinion to determine whether there has been anything "discreditable" in the part we have played, or in the part we are now playing, in this sad and sordid business.

We had hoped that in this issue we should have been in a position to give a summary of the evidence to which we have referred, but the case for the prosecution is not quite concluded, and we must, therefore, ask our readers to wait till next week.

INSPECTOR GOUGH'S ADMISSION.

We learn, however, just as we go to press, that in cross-examination Inspector Gough admitted that he first heard of the witness Moore in consequence of the call of our Special Commissioner at Bow Street Police Court—a significant commentary upon the Magistrate's remark. To what further extent the authorities are indebted to us for assistance, will in due course be made clear.

THE DEFENCE.

We understand that, in the event of Starchfield being committed for trial, Mr. E. G. Hemmerde, K.C., M.P., will be leading counsel for the defence, assisted by two well-known juniors. Certainly, so far as we are concerned, nothing will be left undone to ensure the accused an adequate defence.

HARROD'S HARSHNESS.

MAMMOTH MERCHANTS' MONSTROUS MEANNESS.

Mr. F. A. Watkins, an electrical engineer in the employ of Harrod's Stores, Ltd., recently met with a severe accident in the course of his employment. His right foot was badly crushed by a crank which he was testing, and he was incapacitated for four months. The accident occurred in the middle of a week, and on the Saturday Watkins received 30s., exactly half his weekly wage. For some time afterwards he received a weekly allowance of £1, a sum which, in the absence of negotiation, had apparently been fixed upon by Messrs. Harrod as a rough-and-ready measure of the compensation to which he was entitled. Unwilling that his claim should be disposed of in this off-hand fashion, Watkins returned these inadequate payments, with an intimation that he proposed to take action against the firm under the Employers' Liability Act. He had decided to proceed under this Act, in the belief that he might thereby succeed more readily than under Workmen's Compensation procedure, which appeared less directly applicable.

RUINED BY A TECHNICALITY.

No settlement by consent seemed possible, and the case was accordingly fought out in the Brompton County Court. Procedure under the Employers' Liability Act is less simple than that under Workmen's Compensation law, and a complex series of questions was left to the jury. There was no material dispute as to the facts. The jury held, however, that the plaintiff knew and appreciated the risk he ran by working in the neighbourhood of an unfenced crank. Upon all other points their sympathies were with Watkins, and they assessed the damage at £114. Upon these findings, however, the learned judge held that the plaintiff was not, in law, entitled to recover, the conclusion of the jury mentioned above having destroyed his right of action. He directed a consultation between the parties, as a result of which it was agreed that the plaintiff should receive £16, and each side should pay its own costs.

We understand that Watkins has been treated with every consideration by his solicitors, but for which he would almost certainly have been considerably out of pocket as a result of his action. In any case, £16, with certain inevitable deductions for costs, was a miserably inadequate solatium for the pain and loss which he had sustained. The defendants were well aware that they had escaped liability on a purely technical ground. They must have known with equal certainty that they were clearly liable under the provisions of the more recent Workmen's Compensation Act. They appear, indeed, to have recognised this at the outset. Once within the purlieus of a law court, however, they seem to have lost all sense of the equitable requirements of the situation. It is not less remarkable that the plaintiff's counsel should have accepted such a paltry sum in satisfaction of his client's claim.

THE COLDNESS OF THE *UN*CHARITABLE.

During his prolonged incapacity, the unfortunate man had been brought to the verge of beggary, and he was at length left with leisure to contemplate the ruins of his home. His wife and child had been reduced to actual want, and debt had inevitably accrued. There was, moreover, a heavy account to be met in respect of surgical attendance. Contemplating these gloomy circumstances, Watkins determined to make one more appeal to Messrs. Harrod, in the hope that they might at least be willing to make some slight further contribution towards his dire necessity. He penned a courteous and dignified appeal to the Managing Director of the firm. In pathetic and womanly fashion his wife seconded the plea. It was to no purpose. Frigidly formal notes of acknowledgment dashed their retaining hopes. Their injured employee, it was said, had chosen to take legal action and must abide by the result. There the matter must remain. Messrs. Harrod have not disdained to profit by a technical flaw in a legal case, and to hold fast to a few paltry sovereigns at the cost of an ex-employee's misery. We are happy to add that Watkins has now obtained other employment, and is slowly retrieving his shattered position.

A CONTEMPTIBLE COMMITTEE.

GILLINGHAM CLUB SCANDAL AGAIN.

The Rock Avenue Working Men's Club, Gillingham, Kent, has attained the unenviable distinction of expulsion from the Club and Institute Union. Some time ago we referred to the high-handed procedure of the Committee in connection with the dismissal of a Steward, who had been given no opportunity of clearing himself from certain charges preferred against him. The present bother relates to the late Secretary of the Club, Mr. G. Rogers, who had warmly espoused the cause of the Steward and thereby earned the deep disfavour of a section of the Committee. It was not easy to find an excuse to relieve him of his official duties, but some flimsy pretext was at length discovered. Mr. Rogers was expelled from his office and from membership of the Club, his plea for an open inquiry being contemptuously spurned. The incident excited much feeling among the general body of members, by whom the Committee's arbitrary action was keenly resented.

Conscious that he had been guilty of no tangible offence, Mr. Rogers immediately sought the aid of the Club and Institute Union. Pursuant to the rules of the Club, the Union appointed Arbitrators to hear all matters in dispute between the Secretary and the Committee, and to issue an award. This course appears to have commended itself to both parties, and the Committee's point of view seems to have been fully represented. Certain vague charges of "disrespectful conduct" received patient investigation. The weight of these accusations may be judged from the Arbitrators' Award. It was ordered that Mr. Rogers should be reinstated as a member after apology for certain trifling discourtesies, and that a general meeting should be called to decide "for" or "against" his continuance as Secretary of the Club.

This latter contingency was the one of all others which the Committee were most anxious to avoid. They were doubtless conscious that the bulk of the members were in sympathy with the Secretary, and that their own conduct in the matter was generally reprobated. They re-admitted Mr. Rogers as a member of the Club, but resolutely declined to give effect to the more material clauses of the award.

A long correspondence ensued between the Committee and the Union Secretary, in the course of which the rightful authority was treated with undisguised contempt by the mandarins of the Club. Despite a clause in their own rules that the Award of Arbitrators should be final, they stubbornly persisted in their attitude of defiance. Expulsion was the normal consequence, and at the last meeting of the Council of the Union the sentence, rarely pronounced, was carried into effect. The members should make a clean sweep of the Committeemen who, in two signal instances, shamefully betrayed the trust reposed in them.

AN OFFICIAL OVERSIGHT.

HEALING THE SICK AT HAMMERSMITH.

What is the matter with the Hammersmith Public Health Authority? A reader sent his ailing daughter to a local doctor, who declared that the child was suffering from diphtheria, and must immediately be removed to the Isolation Hospital. Next morning an inspector called upon the parents to intimate that an ambulance carriage would presently be sent. Here the matter appears to have ended as far as the authorities are concerned. We are assured that, despite the doctor's notification and the inspector's visit, the child was not in fact removed from her home, and that her parents have consequently suffered grave inconvenience and loss, apart from the risk of further infection. We understand that the officials have sought to justify their inaction by suggesting that the father had expressed a wish to have the child treated at home. This assertion is scarcely credible, in view of the fact that the man is too ill to work and that there are four other children at home, all depending upon their mother for support. During the child's illness, the mother was, of course, kept in attendance upon her, with consequent hardship to the rest of the family. The circumstances merit close inquiry.

"Bullet" Prizes value £1,562 to be Won Weekly. See page 28.

BIRTH OF THE BUSINESS GOVERNMENT LEAGUE.

AN EPOCH-MAKING EVENT—FIRST BLOOD AT BETHNAL GREEN.

The Business Government League has arrived. Although not yet formally amalgamated with its immediate forerunner, the John Bull League, it made its bow to the public at the Foresters' Hall, Bethnal Green, on Tuesday of last week.

No, you did not read about it in the papers. The tyranny and fanaticism of the Party Press are such that, whilst it will magnify a school-room meeting of a couple of hundred people into a "splendid rally," it will dishonestly ignore a great gathering, several thousand strong, met to protest against the fraud of the Party Game and to hear the programme of a sane, common-sense Business Government for a common-sense Business people. And such a gathering was it at the Foresters' Hall. Long before the advertised time of the meeting its utmost capacity was besieged—upwards of two thousand being turned away. And what had brought the people there? The simple announcement that, under the auspices of the Business Government League, Mr. Bottomley would address the electors. In other parts of the constituency—we took steps to ascertain the facts—dismal meetings of from fifty to two hundred people were being held under the banners of the rival Parties, listening to their weary and moth-eaten platitudes. And these meetings were duly described in the Party Press the following morning as demonstrations of striking enthusiasm for whichever "righteous cause" the particular journal happened to be identified with!

A GREAT MEETING.

Mr. Bottomley explained the two reasons which made the intervention of the League particularly appropriate. First, Bethnal Green was well within the sphere of the South Hackney influence, and, therefore, to some extent ripe for the new gospel; and, secondly, the "promotion" of Mr. Masterman to the sinecure of the Chancellorship of the Duchy of Lancaster afforded a striking object-lesson in the fraud of Party Government. Great amusement was caused by the recital of the Prime Minister's defence of the office, on the ground that it enabled a Minister whose own duties were "comparatively light" to assist other over-worked members of the Cabinet. Mr. Bottomley pictured the First Lord of the Admiralty, the Secretary for War, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer alternately ringing up this young Cambridge student, and asking him in their absence to take charge respectively of the Navy, the Army, and the Exchequer. He traced Mr. Masterman's kaleidoscopic career as Under-Secretary of several Government Departments, and pointed out how willingly, the moment he assumed office, he opposed, tooth and nail, a measure of the Labour Party which he had supported *in toto* a few months previously. Reference was also made to the notorious whitewashing of the Akbar Reformatory officials, after the inquiry into the scandals revealed by JOHN BULL; and a great impression was created in the minds of the Liberals present by the quotation of a passage from a speech in the House of Commons by Mr. Masterman's predecessor in the representation of Bethnal Green—the late Mr. Pickersgill—strongly condemning the whitewashing character of the Masterman Report.

Turning from the purely personal aspect of the matter, Mr. Bottomley enunciated the general principles of the Business Government League, which he summarised as the transaction of the nation's Business through Public Departments, each presided over by a man with expert, practical knowledge of its work, and all controlled by a reformed House of Commons, sitting as the Business Committee of the Nation. He ridiculed the possibility of any one man presiding in turn in the course of seven years, over several important public services, giving many striking illustrations of the inefficiency and waste of money occasioned by the present system; and concluded with the declaration that, unlike the propaganda of most other Leagues, the Business Government campaign was absolutely free from cant. It did not promise the abolition of poverty and want, inasmuch as there would always be strong and weak, successful and unsuccessful, sections of the community. It did, however, hold out the hope—by tapping new sources of revenue, without the disturbance of trade or the infliction of injustice upon any section of the community; by abolishing waste and extravagance in the public service; and by placing the management of the nation's affairs in the hands of Business men—of bringing into play, for the general benefit, millions of dormant capital now lying idle; of productive employment for all willing workers; of affording equal opportunity for all; and of accumulating an available surplus for the succour of the old, the young, and the infirm. The speaker was followed throughout with rapt attention, and at the close of his address received a remarkable ovation.

THE IMMEDIATE—AND FUTURE—EFFECT.

So much for the meeting. What was its effect? Ask Mr. Masterman—or, if you like, Sir Matthew Wilson. No sooner was the meeting over than Mr. Bottomley was surrounded by people clamouring to be enrolled as members, and all declaring that never again would they vote on mere Party lines; whilst letters to the same effect poured into our offices. One is typical of all: "What fools we have been; no more Party for me. I and the two friends who came with me have made up our minds to have nothing more to do with it. We were going to vote for Masterman because we thought it would be good for us to have a Cabinet Minister to represent us—but now we see the game, and we think we can carry at least six more with us." And two days later the new Cabinet Minister was defeated, and is now, it is announced, "taking a rest." We are even told that there is no immediate hurry about a seat—he can discharge "the duties of his office" just as well outside Parliament! The truth is that the Government is ashamed of the whole thing. Hitherto political meetings have been little more than organised "demonstrations" for the self-glorification of one Party and the abuse of the other. Popular platform speakers, like Mr. F. E. Smith on the one side, and Mr. Hemmerde on the other, are dragged about at election times, from one place to another—but how many votes do they influence; how many electors do they convert? If one of "the enemy" is present, he is there, as a rule, to interrupt—and to be thrown out! But now a new force has appeared. In future, members of all Parties will meet together and hear plain truths about the Great Game, and an ever-increasing number will follow the guidance of the League in the casting of their votes. The immediate result will be that, where hitherto Parties have been fairly evenly divided, the League will play ducks and drakes with their "machinery," as it is called. Later, we shall capture the bigger fortresses. But that will do to go on with. No majority of less than a thousand will be safe to either side; the wire-pullers will be distracted, and "Damn the League!" will be their common cry.

A CORRECTION.

In our issue of November 1st, 1913, we published an article under the heading "Behind the Screens: Telling the Old, Old Story," in the course of which we commented upon a case in which Joseph Mordecai, of 195, Lower Clapton Road, N.E., advertising contractor, was the plaintiff, and made certain adverse comments upon his business methods and character. As a result of further inquiries into the matter, we are satisfied that the information upon which we acted was inaccurate in several material respects, and that our comments were therefore not justified. We find that it has been clearly established in a recent case arising out of the same matter as that to which we referred that Mr. Mordecai was in no way to blame for the incidents upon which we commented, and was not in any way liable for the sums in which it was stated he was indebted. We also find that he was not in any way connected with another firm whose methods we criticised. We are now satisfied that Mr. Mordecai is carrying on a *bona-fide* and successful business, with credit to himself and proper consideration towards his customers, and we are glad to take the opportunity of removing from the minds of our readers any wrong impression that may have been caused by our article, and at the same time to express to Mr. Mordecai our great regret that we should have been misled into classing him with those firms whose methods we have from time to time exposed.

TEXTS FOR TENANTS.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THORNTON.

Mr. H. Thornton, of Warrington, seems to be a peculiar kind of man. He is the landlord of some houses in Amelia Street, and in connection with them issues a novel rent-card. On one side spaces are provided for the weekly payments; the other is devoted to a statement of the penalties for non-payment, and quotations from the Bible. These latter have evidently been selected very carefully, and a couple are worth quoting:—

> He that sinneth against the Lord wrongeth his own soul.

Surely, Mr. Thornton meant *Land*-lord!

> A prudent man forseeth evil, and hideth himself, but the simple pass on and are punished.

We do not know Mr. Thornton's interpretation of this quotation, but we should say that, in landlord language, it implies that the prudent man does a "moonlight flit," while the simpler allows the bailiff to take possession of his goods.

We understand that Mr. Thornton is a shining light at a local chapel.

LATENT LEGACIES.

ANOTHER PRETTY BUBBLE PRICKED.

We are indebted to a City firm of solicitors for a little further information with reference to Messrs. Fraser and Williams, Private Enquiry Agents, of 64, Basinghall Street, E.C., whose activities were briefly criticised in our issue of November 29th. We then quoted a letter which the firm had addressed to a reader and pointed out that communications worded in a precisely similar fashion were apparently being scattered broadcast over the country. In every instance there was a studiously vague hint of a dormant legacy, full particulars of which would be disclosed on payment of "our customary fee" of 3s. 6d. One of these missives recently fell into the hands of the lawyers we have mentioned, who instantly caused inquiries to be made at 64, Basinghall Street. Their representative had the greatest difficulty in finding any trace whatever of Messrs. Fraser and Williams, but on climbing to a type-writing office on the top floor of an extensive block, he discovered that these enterprising gentlemen had used the place merely as a postal address for the delivery of letters, which were collected from time to time by a Mr. Fraser. The tenants of the office know nothing of the nature of the business, and had not seen Fraser for more than a week. Presumably, our warning had caused a slump in the "customary fees."

A PERILOUS PRECEDENT.

MAGISTRATES' CLERK EXCEEDS HIS AUTHORITY.

A recent incident at the Newcastle Police Court suggests that expedients which are not legally justified are sometimes resorted to by those who should know better. Angus McNeill, a seaman residing at Glasgow, was convicted of drunken and unseemly conduct, and fined five shillings and costs. Having cheerfully paid the price of his "beano" of the night before, Angus politely demanded the return of a sum of £5 which he had deposited with the police as security for his due appearance at the seat of judgment. Thereupon a sharp colloquy ensued between himself and Mr. J. R. Roberts, the learned Clerk of the Court.

Learning that Angus owned certain domestic obligations, Mr. Roberts demanded the address of his wife, in order that he might forward to her the "fiver" which he feared might otherwise find its way down the throat of her thirsty spouse. This arrangement, however, was by no means to the defendant's liking, and he strenuously resisted the proposal. To a suggestion that the money should be forwarded to him personally to his address in Glasgow he was equally unsympathetic.

Finally, the learned Clerk appears to have displayed some heat over the matter. "You are not going to get a penny of this five pounds," he declared. "We will send it to the Superintendent of Police at Glasgow, and you can apply for it there."

With this solution of the difficulty, Angus was perforce content, but we are not surprised that the incident should have evoked considerable discussion in local circles. Mr. Roberts was doubtless inspired by a sincere desire to save the man from further trouble and from wasting his substance in riotous living, but we fancy he would be hard put to it to find legal warrant for his action. As soon as Angus had paid his fine with costs, he was clearly entitled to the return of his bail, and neither Mr. Roberts nor his magisterial masters had a shadow of right to detain it, even for his own good. To "do evil that good may come" is a course which is as perilous in the realm of law as in that of general conduct. We note that no magistrate had a word to say on the point. Is the Newcastle Court "run" by its Clerk?

A DUMB ORACLE.

SHOULD ORPHANAGE OFFICIALS TELL?

An Edinburgh correspondent propounds a somewhat curious query. He was born in Buda Pesth, and when seven years old was brought to Scotland and left at an orphanage in a Banffshire village. His memories of early childhood are naturally dim, and when, quite recently, he was discharged from the institution to make his own way in the world, he sought information from the officials as to his parentage and the circumstances surrounding his birth. He was informed that his father was an officer in the Austrian Army, and that his mother was an English governess; but beyond these bald facts, and the further intimation that his birth was illegitimate, he could obtain no news. Yet from observation during his ten years' stay in the orphanage he is convinced that the officials, if they chose, could add materially to the particulars which they have thought fit to disclose. Can he compel them to reveal their knowledge, and to deliver up any relevant documents which they may have in their possession?

We have considerable sympathy with our correspondent's position, and if the facts are as he supposes it is hard that he should be kept in ignorance of matters which, to him, are of vital interest, and perhaps of material importance. We fear, however, that he is helpless in the matter unless he can persuade the orphanage officials of the fairness of his plea. We know of no form of legal pressure which could be successfully exerted to make them disgorge their secrets or produce letters and papers which are clearly their own property. In these circumstances, our correspondent may perhaps find consolation in the reflection that, even if he could get the information he seeks, it might prove far less interesting and helpful than he is tempted to suppose. Perhaps, after all, he had better try to forget the hazy past, determined "to breast the blows of circumstance and grapple with his evil star."

Mammoth Football Prizes again offered—£1,500, £500, £150, & £50. Page 31.

A SCURVY SCANDAL.

BASELESS ASPERSIONS UPON AN EX-PRIEST.

Early in 1906, the Rev. Alfred P. Roche, Parish Priest of Selkirk, severed his connection with the Roman Catholic Church, having lost faith in the accepted tenets of that communion. Mr. Roche has since striven to support himself in secular employment in Liverpool and elsewhere, and has attained a certain measure of success in the various enterprises which he has undertaken. He complains, however, of unscrupulous attempts on the part of certain of his former associates to vex and harass him in his present course of life. Indeed, he is convinced that a definite plot is on foot to compass his downfall and to thwart such influence as he may wield. Be this as it may, we are satisfied that Mr. Roche has been the victim of a venomous attack, which the facts in our possession contain nothing to justify.

GRAVE CHARGES.

In 1909, a contemporary published a lengthy article, from which we cull the following extracts. The reference in each case is to the ex-Priest of Selkirk.

> During the three or four years he remained at Selkirk he was involved in continual scandals.
>
> He exhibited a tradesman's bill on his Church door, with a stamped receipt as proof that it had been paid, the tradesman's signature being repudiated by him as a forgery, and the handwriting being clearly that of Roche himself.
>
> He then left Selkirk for Edinburgh, taking with him the money which was in his charge for the Roman Catholic Schools.

Allegations of drunkenness follow, and the crowning indictment against Mr. Roche is thus expressed :—

> But the fact which more than any other stamps him as an unprincipled scoundrel is that, while appealing to the Sister of a Catholic Convent, he was actually receiving payment as a Protestant lecturer from the Hope Trust Protestant Association, Edinburgh.

The "fact" thus virulently uttered was in due course proved to be a lie—not, however, before it had been reprinted and circulated in leaflet form by the Catholic Truth Society. A few weeks later a full apology was issued. It was at length made perfectly clear that Mr. Roche had never received a penny piece from any Protestant Association whatever. The utter breakdown of this charge naturally throws grave doubt upon the more serious allegations by which it was accompanied.

OVERWHELMING REFUTATION.

In justice to Mr. Roche, we are bound to give publicity to certain items of evidence which can hardly have been brought to the notice of his detractors. With reference to the charge that during his residence at Selkirk the priest "was involved in continual scandals," the following contemporary extract from the Dundee *People's Journal*, a secular and non-Catholic journal, is of vital importance :—

> By his own people Father Roche is almost idolised, his kindly disposition, sympathy, and earnestness winning back wayward Catholics who had shunned their Church for many years, as well as receiving many converts to the Church.

At about this time, the poor Catholics of Selkirk raised a subscription to defray their Pastor's expenses in connection with a pilgrimage to Rome. This they did voluntarily and as a token of their esteem. But more eloquent than all in vindication of the character of Mr. Roche, is the farewell letter addressed to him by the Archbishop of Edinburgh and St. Andrew's, upon his withdrawal from Selkirk in 1906. It is couched in Latin, of which the following is a close translation :—

> We hereby testify that the Rev. Alfred P. Roche, who is leaving this diocese, having completed very many years in the Ministry, is, to our knowledge, affected by no ecclesiastical censure or canonical impediment whatever, and there is nothing to prevent him from celebrating the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.
>
> JACOBUS AUGUSTINUS,
> Archbishop.

It is unthinkable that such conclusive testimony should have been accorded to a priest who had been guilty of profligacy, forgery and theft. We have every sympathy with Mr. Roche in his efforts to rid himself finally of those foul reproaches.

VALUERS AT VARIANCE.

HARD LUCK AND A WHOLESOME HINT.

We have been enabled to peruse a lengthy correspondence which has passed between Mr. W. Holloway, of Weston-super-Mare, and the National Benefit Trust, Limited, otherwise known as the National Benefit Life and Property Assurance Company. The benefits of the Company may be obtained by the purchase by instalments of certain Bonds, which, under prescribed conditions, entitle the holder to an advance of cash for the acquisition of house property. It is not our purpose to review the details of the general scheme, but rather to direct attention to some peculiar features in Mr. Holloway's case.

Having acquired two Bonds, each of the value of £250, he proposed two properties in Weston-super-Mare for the consideration of the Company, desiring an advance on each, as provided by the conditions. The combined purchase price amounted to upwards of £520, and the premises were, of course, submitted to valuation at the instance of the Company. It was perhaps a little unfortunate that a Valuer from Bristol should have been nominated for this purpose, instead of a local man thoroughly conversant with the state of the property market in Weston. The Bristol Valuer reported that in his judgment the houses proposed for an advance were of a present value of £500, but were in danger of depreciation from a recent access of speculative building. In view of this, the Company declined to advance more than £450, instead of the £500 to which, in a proper case, the applicant was entitled in virtue of his Bonds.

In these circumstances, Mr. Holloway was unable to proceed with the purchase, and he was naturally disappointed at the failure of his plans. He was, moreover, convinced that the properties had been under-valued, and in order to obtain the corroboration of this opinion he requested two local Valuers to furnish him with valuations. He assures us that in each instance the figure of the Weston Surveyor was considerably in excess of that of the Company's Valuer. The Company were, it seems, unwilling to review the matter, neither would they accede to a proposal for a cash surrender of the Bonds, their Rules apparently affording no warrant for such a proceeding.

It is unfortunate that friction should thus have arisen, and we sympathise to a large extent with Mr. Holloway's feelings in the matter. At the same time, we are bound to assume that the Company acted legitimately for the protection of their resources against an excessive advance. For the future avoidance of similar unpleasantness, however, we would suggest a change in the method of valuation. The decision of a single Valuer of the Company's choosing, from which there is apparently no appeal, scarcely suffices to dispose of issues which may well involve technical controversy. Subscribers should be apprised of the date and time of valuation, in order that they may arrange to be represented by an independent Valuer. In the event of disagreement, the Company's valuation should doubtless enjoy priority, but we fancy differences of opinion would be rare, and that when arising they would be found susceptible of ready adjustment with satisfaction to all concerned. The plan, at any rate, is worth a trial.

"VENGEANCE."

"PAYING OUT" A FLEET PAYMASTER.

All the world knows how Fleet Paymaster Lowry embezzled naval money, and was sentenced to penal servitude. Few, however, are aware of the fuss which attended his Court-Martial. H.M.S. *Vengeance* was requisitioned for the function, and the ship's nucleus crew had to set to work to discharge all the ammunition. This occupied the best part of two days, and in consequence the men's leave was stopped. Then there was all the "after" part of the vessel to be cleaned and painted. The cost of getting the improvised court ready must have been at least £100 of the taxpayers' money—and the actual trial lasted—an hour! Surely, if the vessel required painting, it should have been *after* the proceedings.

"Bullet" Prizes value £1,562 to be Won Weekly. See page 28.

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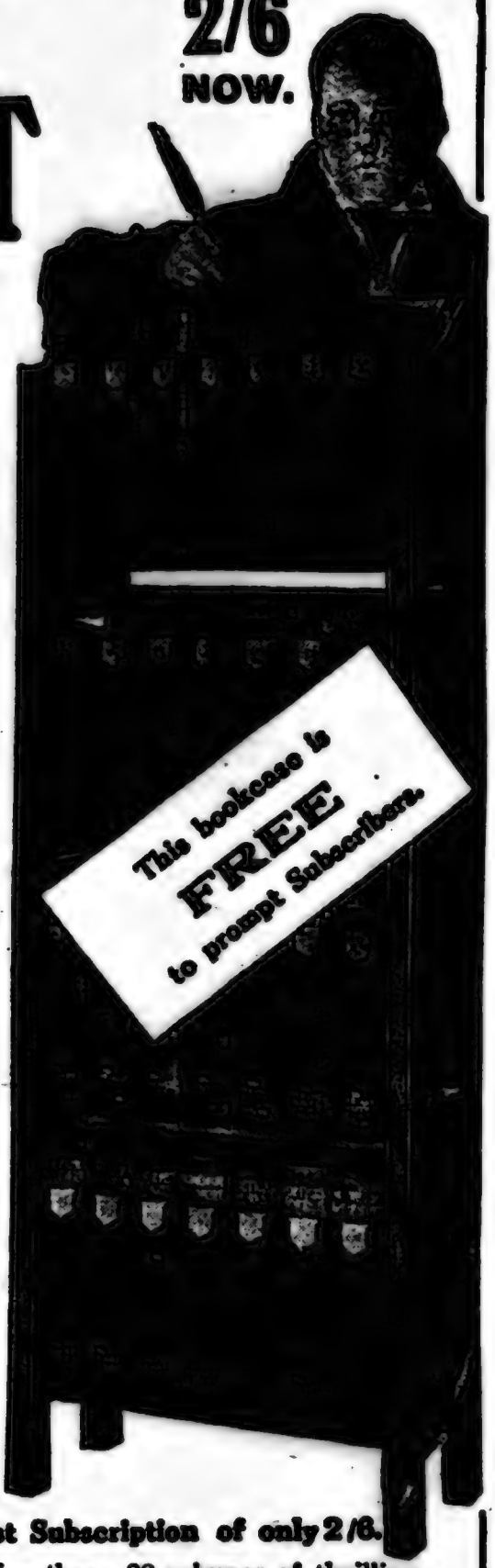

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OCCUPATION .....

"JOHN BULL'S" WEEKLY CINEMA.

BULL-DOGGEREL RHYMES BY "THE BOW-WOW."

In all the "races" lately run
The Premier's luck was dead;
It's true at Poplar Yeo won,
But only by a head.

Shall petty trivialities
Great Britain's might arrest?
Behold, a Briton, *murdered*, lies,
Whose death must be redressed!

It must have startled Bonar Law
At Westminster to meet
The man whom he felt pretty sure
His friend, Kerr Clark, would beat.

Opticians I have always thought
The last of folks to fight,
But ev'dence disclosed in court
Shows I was far from right.

A push, a word, and then a biff!
The fateful deed was done;
A chase, a summons, and a stiff
And "costly" fine for one.

An English greyhound wins the Cup,
We're happy to relate,
But an Australian dog runs up
And carries off the Plate!

DEBT AND DODGERY.

CALEDONIAN COLLECTOR'S COOL CHEEK.

The debt collecting business appears to be strongly established north of the Tweed. A Glasgow debtor recently received the following delicate intimation from a person signing himself "William Brackenridge, Inspector of Accounts."

> It having become evident from your silence that extreme measures will be required to recover the debt against you in Mr. Jn. Coldwell's books, proceedings will be raised against you by summoning you when the necessary steps will be taken to obtain Warrant of Pounding and Sale of your Effects, which failing, it will be necessary to have your employer examined on Oath under Arrestment and Action of Forthcoming as to what wages you receive, so that a portion of the same be applied periodically in satisfaction of this debt, the expense of all which will fall on you to pay. No further notice of any kind will be sent. Your attention will save expenses.

Not entirely so, however. Upon this head a demand for five shillings is at once preferred—15 per cent. on the amount of the alleged indebtedness. As we have frequently insisted, such charges cannot rightfully be exacted. The collector is the agent of the creditor, to whom he must look for his pay. The recipient of this notice, if he is lawfully indebted, should forward the precise amount of his obligation to the creditor and ignore the collector's attempt to inflate the amount by the addition of costs. He should not allow himself to be frightened by a piece of blue paper and a clumsy aping of legal terms.

MY "P.S.A."

I sit beside my window, 'tis a Sabbath afternoon.
The rain pours down incessantly; the changing of the moon
Denotes a spell of weather—well, very far from dry.
So my thoughts they fain would wander to a sunnier, brighter sky.
I say my thoughts would wander, but alas! it is not true.
They stray—well, little farther than the sound of "Hitchy Koo."
It's a grand land, is this flat land, when the window's open wide,
And the flood of music greets you in an ever-flowing tide.
I can hear a voice, not pretty, singing "Thora, speak to me."
If Thora did, I feel convinced, she'd lay her down and die!
The local Bethel bell rings out its tinkly tiny chime,
And someone near plays "Kindly Light," one finger at a time;
Then like a fever spreading, way up and down the street,
Each pounds his little instrument, Oh! what a glorious treat.
God gave us each a voice, I know, to use as best we may,
But never in the manner they are being used to-day.
The muffin man will soon be round to join us in the riot,
Then not till tea-time will there be the chance of any quiet.
So you who live in villages, by seashore, or in glen,
Just pity me this Sabbath day, just think awhile, and then,
Thank Heaven you are far removed from London's Sunday ways,
Would I were there to join you in your happy, quiet days!

F. MAITLAND.

Don't forget the Pen Coupon. On page iii of cover.

JOHN BULL SOLVES THE LAND PROBLEM

Out upon Party Politics! What matters it whether pheasants eat mangolds or not. John Bull cares not a jot. He solves the land problem in his own effective and simple manner, for at the approach of Spring he sends for his Ryder catalogue and chooses a garden from it at his leisure. Then he orders his seeds from Ryders, and in a few months is rewarded by a garden of glorious blossom, foliage, and fragrance.

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Make up your mind that you will have *your* ideal garden this year. Get Ryders Seeds and sow them according to the cultural instructions on each packet, and that garden of your mind's eye—that garden of wondrous hues and delicious fragrances—will in a month or two be an accomplished fact.

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A CAP THAT FITS.

QUI S'EXCUSE S'ACCUSE.

The members of the Grimsby Corporation appear to possess about as uneasy a set of consciences as any body of public men whom it is our lot to know. In our issue of January 3rd we criticised their action in drastically reducing the stipends payable to their Elective Auditors, Messrs. Frank Kirby and T. H. Shipman, and we suggested that the object of this move was to drive these two gentlemen from office. Our conclusions were thus summarised :—

> In virtually dispensing with the services of gentlemen holding office by a popular vote, the Finance Committee has invited searching criticism. There is, indeed, a growing impression that the very qualities which have commended the Auditors to the general body of ratepayers have sufficed to render their services unacceptable to a section of the Borough Council.

Strange as it may appear, these gentle observations have brought a hornet's nest about our ears. We are accused of having "reflected upon the Borough Council," and of having "made unfair reference" to the action of the Finance Committee. Unfortunately, however, there has so far been no attempt to refute our suggestions or to resist the inference which we drew. Indeed, our interpretation of the episode has been strikingly confirmed by no less a personage than Councillor H. J. F. Crosby, Vice-Chairman of the Finance Committee, to whose gracious public utterances we directed attention in our earlier paragraph. Councillor Crosby now writes :—

> The Elective Auditors' last inspection of the accounts (which had already been audited by professional men) occupied them only nineteen hours, for which service they received fifteen guineas each. It was therefore considered unnecessary to pay them more than the minimum fee *until they could be dispensed with altogether.*

Our main contention is thus admitted. For the rest, we are not much impressed by Councillor Crosby's reference to the number of hours devoted by Messrs. Kirby and Shipman to the actual examination of the Council's books. His statement—he must forgive the reminder—is entirely *ex parte*, and we are bound to say it ill accords with our earlier information. Moreover, the value of such work cannot be measured by the crude standard thus applied. The function of Elective Auditors, as Mr. Crosby should know, does not consist so much in the mere actuarial checking of accounts as in the vigilant detection and prompt condemnation of improper financial dealings. We repeat that the Elective Auditors of Grimsby have discharged this part of their task with laudable thoroughness. Mr. Crosby seemingly concurs, thus :—

> Judging from the results, the principal object of the Elective Auditors appears to have been to endeavour to find "mare's nests," and to cast unjust reflections upon officials and members of the Corporation.

This is the worthy Councillor's way of putting it, but we doubtless mean precisely the same thing. People with this irritating propensity for investigation must be kept at arm's length. Far better a respectable firm of chartered accountants, who can mind their own business and observe the canons of professional decorum!

In conclusion, we would assure Councillor Crosby that our remarks are not, as he suggests, based upon "half a tale," but upon quite a number of whole ones of the mellowest flavour.

WHO GOES TO AUSTRALIA?

SAD TALES OF UNEMPLOYMENT AT THE ANTIPODES.

An advertisement from the Adelaide (Australia) *Advertiser* runs: "Man seeks employment. Has had wide range of experience. Will accept any mortal thing for an existence, clerical or manual; sober, industrious, married. Address ——, Currency Creek." The Adelaide gentleman who sends us the newspaper in which this appears says it is a common thing to see money offered to anybody able to find a job for a man out of work, but it is easier to offer the money than it is to get the job. "I have travelled from one end to the other where white men are found," he concludes, "and distress is rampant." Once again, Who goes to Australia?

LAW-BREAKING CONSTABLES.

HOW POLICE EVIDENCE IS SOMETIMES GLEANED.

The Margate police recently instituted a peculiarly vexatious prosecution against a local hairdresser, in respect of certain betting transactions. At the preliminary hearing the accused was committed for trial at the Borough Quarter Sessions, where the circumstances of the charge have been investigated by the Recorder and a jury. It was alleged that the barber had conducted a ready-money betting business at his shop, in contravention of the Betting Act of 1853, and that persons had "resorted" to his premises for the purpose of betting in the manner forbidden by the provisions of the Statute. Of this assertion there was no scintilla of evidence apart from the testimony of two probationary constables of the Margate force. These worthies were able to swear that the barber had accepted money in respect of bets, inasmuch as they themselves had, with the greatest difficulty, induced him to do so, in order that they might be in a position to report a contravention of the law. Despite their utmost vigilance, however, they were unable to detect any single cash transaction, other than those in which they were themselves implicated. But for its more sinister aspects the situation would have been Gilbertian in its frank absurdity. The clever constables were unknown to each other and were almost daily reporting one another to headquarters for breaches of the law. When at length, by the most unscrupulous devices, they had virtually forced their money upon the unwilling defendant, the matter was held to be ripe for criminal prosecution, and the detectives appeared unmasked as witnesses for the prosecution.

In the face of the direct evidence of bets made with the policemen, the jury had no option but to convict the hapless defendant. They could not, however, be blind to the fact that he had been shamelessly provoked to illegality by the representatives of the law. In returning a verdict of guilty, they expressed their emphatic condemnation of methods so flagrantly opposed to every consideration of public policy. We wish the learned Recorder had seen fit to express himself somewhat more clearly in a similar sense. In all the circumstances of the case, the fine of £10 with £12 15s. 6d. costs, which he proceeded to impose, was, in our judgment, an unnecessarily drastic penalty.

In extenuation of the part in the shabby business played by the policemen, it must, of course, be remembered that they acted under orders, and that they were probationary officers whose future prospects depended, we suppose, entirely upon their "success" in the case to which their prentice efforts were directed. They doubtless entertained a shrewd notion that nothing short of conviction would satisfy their superiors, and to this end, by whatever means, their whole efforts were bent. Left to themselves, they would in all likelihood have disdained the dirty job. The responsibility must rest upon the higher officers of the Margate Constabulary, whose ideas of their duty are clearly in need of drastic revision. We commend the matter to the attention of the Watch Committee.

A PLAYGROUNDLESS PLACE.

CARLISLE CHILDREN'S CHEERLESS CONDITION.

Instead of assuming such a majestic air to parents when the police bring little boys before him for playing in the streets, Major Spencer Ferguson, Mayor of Carlisle, would be more suitably occupied in endeavouring to influence his colleagues of the City Council to open a playground in Newtown, where the kiddies would be able to relieve their boisterous spirits without upsetting anybody's nerves. A short time ago a parent reminded the Major that the children had nowhere to play. "Sit down and hold your tongue," snapped the great man; "we have nothing to do with that"—and in imposing a fine of 5s. each on the lads, he added that "people would be justified if they caught hold of the boys and gave them a good hiding" because, according to the charge, they had been "running about, bawling and shouting." One cannot always keep children at Sunday-school, and *we* wouldn't if we could.

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"THE GREATEST OF THESE—"

HUMAN DOCUMENTS.

[In this column every week we publish particulars of human derelicts whose cases, after full investigation, we are able to recommend to the charity of our readers. We are happy to say that in this way we have already been the means of bringing comfort into many a wretched home. All amounts subscribed are duly acknowledged, and no deduction of any kind is made by us.]

CCXCV.—LABOURER WORTHY, BUT HIRE WANTING.

This is the pathetic case of a casual labourer. The man is not a waster; he is of unblemished character, in good health, yet he is unable to get regular employment. Here is what a Superintendent of Police says about him:—

> I have personally known this man for the past two years, and he has been known to my officers for a much longer period as a sober, trustworthy, industrious man. Whenever I have been appealed to by persons wanting a reliable man to undertake watching sick and mentally afflicted friends, I have invariably recommended him, and he has always given entire satisfaction.

The poor fellow's wife is in failing health, and he has eight children—the eldest a boy of 15, who has been an invalid from childhood; the youngest a baby six months old. The father has not been able to get any employment since December last. There are several weeks' rent owing, and also accounts due for groceries. His "home" is reduced to practically nothing, the furniture having been sold for food. The family sleep on mattresses on the floor, and last week the only remaining pair of blankets were sold. Three children—two boys aged 8 and 10 and a girl of 13—are unable to attend school because they have no clothing. The Guardians have rendered some outdoor relief, while the police of the district, in their personal capacity, have also helped the family. To crown the poor creatures' woes, the landlord threatens eviction. In his despair, the man applies to us for help. We leave the case in the charitable hands of our readers.

CCXCVI.—CLOTHING THE NAKED.

Surely, few can read this paragraph and retain any doubt as to why the streets of our great cities are disgraced by the parade of vice. Here is an extract from a letter written to us by a Liverpool girl of twenty:—

> I have no one else to turn to, so I am writing to you in my trouble. I am ordered into the Infirmary by my panel doctor and I have no clothes to go in. Could you send me a few warm undergarments and a coat?

Upon receipt of this we immediately got into communication with a well-known worker amongst the Liverpool poor, Mr. H. Lee Jones, and asked him to investigate. We quote from his report:—

> The case I had great pleasure in visiting for you is manifestly genuine and pathetic. The daughter (who signed the letter) and the mother were at home, and the former is obviously in the first stage of consumption. I saw a bare cupboard and a bare coal-cellar—or practically so; so I had to help "on the spot," which, of course, I did with great pleasure, giving 5s. for urgent needs for to-day—coal, bread, etc., and eggs and milk for the sick daughter. In about half-an-hour I am to speak to the Secretary of the Royal Infirmary, so as to hurry the girl's acceptance there or elsewhere, so I may have to send the clothes, boots, etc., on at any minute, which I will also gladly do. It is a matter of urgency, for the daughter cannot now work, and all that is coming into the house is 7s. a week from a bonny young son, and 5s. a quarter to the mother. My last scene was the daughter weeping.

The poor girl has been working in a clothing factory and her average weekly earnings were 7s. 6d. Out of this she was stopped fivepence for power, 1s. for thread, 3d. insurance, and 1½d. needles! During the whole of the bitter winter—in frost, sleet and rain—she had to trudge to her work, remaining in her wet rags all through the day! Is it any wonder that the poor creature has consumption? We refrain from criticising the system of employment—this is not the place for it. The girl is now in the Infirmary and we hope in due course she will come out cured. In the meantime, there is the mother to look after—and we want some clothes for the girl when she returns home.

CCXCVII.—PAYING THE PRICE.

This case will, we hope, act as a warning to young girls. We cannot do better than let the subject of our appeal speak for herself:—

> I am without food, money or fire at the present moment, but the worst of all I am expetting a baby in a day or two. I have nothing ready for myself and child. Unfortunately, I am not married, but the father of the child is looking after me as well as he can. He is out of work, but expects to get employment soon. . . . I am so tired of waiting, and I am afraid to leave it any longer. My parents live in the country and I dare not let them know.

We immediately sent a representative to the girl's address, and he arrived there only just in time to prevent a tragedy. He was not long in restoring something like comfort to the one room in which she was living and making some arrangements for the reception of the little stranger. This done, we searched out the man who was responsible for the trouble. He frankly admitted his liability, and satisfied us that so soon as he could get some employment he would support his child. He has once been in a very good position, and expects to get something to do very soon now. He seems genuinely fond of the girl—for whom, indeed, he had pawned his last shirt. Unfortunately, he cannot marry her, because he already has a wife, from whom, however, he is separated. We hope, with the help of our readers, to see the girl well over her trouble.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

We have received the following, which we have duly forwarded to the subjects of the "Human Documents" named:—

CCLXXXVII.—"Collins Avenue," 2s. 6d.

CCLXXXVIII.—W. V. W., 1s. 6d.; "One Who Knows," 2s. 9d.

CCLXXXIX.—"Newbury," 10s.; "A Reader," 1s.; H. S., parcel, M. E. H., 2s. 6d.; "Ex-Matloe," 5s.

CCXC.—J. H., 5s.; F. H. W., 5s.; "Eva," 6d.; Mrs. A. P., 5s.; L. H., 2s. 6d.; "Very Sorry," 5s.; "F. H. and J.," 2s. 6d.; "Our Mary Ann," 5s.; "Young Mother," 1s.; "In Memory of Father," 2s. 6d.; "Inasmuch," 2s. 6d.; "Top Weight," 1s.; "Billy," 10s.; "Truly Sorry," 5s.; H. R., 1s. 6d.; J. T., 2s.; E. A. T., 1s.; A. G., 5s.; "Tearlash," 4s.; "Lonely," 1s.; J. P. M., 5s.; "The W.," 10s.; "Chiswick," 1s.; A. F., 2s.; "A Cancer Victim," 3s.; "Anonymous," 1s.; "Brighton," 6d.; "The Fairy," 2s. 6d.; E. S., 10s.; S. M. B., 2s. 6d.; "A Mother," 6s.; A. R., 1s.; "Chalet Dogs," 5s.; "Fifer," 1s.; Mrs. L., parcel; M. A. R., 2s. 6d.; M. C. L., 1s.; "Sympathiser," 2s. 6d., E. H., 1s.; J. M. W. S., 2s. 6d.; C. and M. A. (Coventry), 2s. 6d.

CCXCI.—"Newbury," 10s.; "Bottles," 2s. 6d.; "Chiswick," 1s.; M. T., 6d.; "A Friend," 6d.; Mrs. H. H., 2s.; C. T., 2s. 6d.; "Hasti Hasti," 2s. 6d.; "Ladysmith," 4d.; "Ex-Matloe," 5s.; W. W. R., 4s.; "Silentia," 5s.

CCXCII.—"In His Name," 5s.; "Ivy Mary," 2s. 6d.; M. B., 1s.; "Anonymous," 21s.; "Little Johnnie," 8s.; F. H. H., 1s.

CCXCIII.—"Ivy Mary," 2s. 6d.

CCXCIV.—"Anon," 5s.; "Ivy Mary," 2s. 6d.; M. R., 2s. 6d.; "Tom," 2s.; A. B. (Preston), 2s. 6d.

We have divided £10 from the John Bull Derby Sweepstake Charity Fund between CCXCII and CCXCIII.

We have also apportioned £10 from the John Bull Football Cup Sweepstake Charity Fund as follows:—CCLXXXIX, £2 10s.; CCXC, £2 10s.; CCXCIV, £5.

Mr. John Imrie, the winner of the £500 prize in our 70th "Bullets" Competition, has kindly forwarded us £10, which we have divided between Nos. CCLXXXIV, CCLXXXVII, CCLXXXIX, and CCXCI. Mr. Douglas E. Kay, the £500 winner in our 69th Competition, has subscribed £5, which we have had pleasure in dividing between CCLXXIV and CCLXXXVIII.

Another Great ONE-WEEK Football Contest. £1,500 for a Coupon. See page 31.

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From the moment you get in touch with us, until the completion of your every requirement, you will realise that our one endeavour is to please, and that the spirit of fairness which prevails in all our dealings will make your furnishing a pleasure instead of a trial. Should you go elsewhere, we trust you will fall into good hands.

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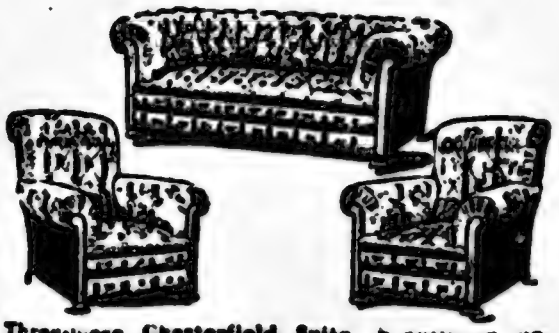

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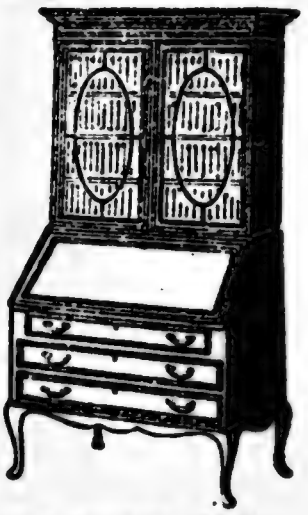

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CANDID COMMUNICATIONS.

[This page is devoted to Open Letters to Celebrities, Notorieties, and, occasionally, Nonentities.]

To the Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, M.P.

DEAR LEADER,—I note that for the purposes of your official Party scheme of "Tariff Reform," hops are henceforth to be regarded as "manufactured goods." I am not sure whether you propose to include leeks and mangel-wurzels in the same category, but you will, I am sure, see that such arbitrary and nonsensical decrees are likely to bring biting ridicule upon your proposals. I am not unmindful of the exigencies of your situation, but why not take the straight road out of the manifold difficulties which beset you? Declare boldly that upon your accession to power you will submit the varied problems of Imperial trade to representative Committees of Business men—sitting as a real Board of Trade—shaping your policy in accord with their recommendations. Such an undertaking could scarcely fail of a warm public response. You were once a Business man, and this is the Business way.

JOHN BULL.

To the Right Hon. Walter Runciman, M.P., President of the Board of Agriculture.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT,—The attention of your Department has frequently been called to the extensive traffic in decrepit horses between this country and foreign ports. So flagrant were its former abuses that in 1910 the Legislature provided for the veterinary inspection of every animal put forward for transhipment. Unhappily, however, there is grave reason to fear that many poor beasts are still embarked in an unfit condition, and that much revolting cruelty is thereby occasioned. This view is cogently presented in a pamphlet recently issued by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and I am bound to say that it is enforced with a wealth of harrowing testimony. That you are indifferent to the fate of these dumb and helpless creatures is, to me, unthinkable, and I beg that you will give the matter your prompt attention. If the trade cannot be conducted without brutality, it must stop.

JOHN BULL.

To Lord Claud Hamilton, Chairman, Great Eastern Railway Company.

MY LORD,—I am not at all pleased with you. With your co-directors, you are, of course, entitled to appoint whom you please as General Manager of your line, but you have no right to excuse your action by casting undeserved reflections upon the capacity of British railway officials, as a class. Your statement that no qualified Britisher could be found for the vacant post passes the bounds of credibility. If you desire to infuse Yankee "hustle" and "scientific management" into the administration of your system, then you should say so like a man, or keep silent as the Sphinx. It is not for me to question the wisdom of the step you have taken, although of that I have considerable doubt. It has been said that "We have little to learn from the American railway system." You should know—for the words were your own. JOHN BULL.

To John Gulland, Esq., M.P., Scottish Liberal Whip.

DEAR JOHN,—What a funny chap you are! First of all, you went down to the Wick Burghs while Mr. Munro was seeking re-election upon his appointment as Lord Advocate and there you said a most improper thing. Urging Mr. Munro's claims to the continued confidence of the electors, you rather more than hinted that his return to Parliament might be followed by the construction of a new harbour at Wick, when, of course, there would be an abundance of Wick work for Wick workers, and two jobs for every man. That such a statement amounted to a collective bribe seems never once to have occurred to your childlike mind. Indeed, when this aspect of the matter was brought home to you, you got quite cross, saying that the wicked Wick reporters had recorded a garbled version of your speech. At length you have had to withdraw this silly plea and humbly to apologise for a blazing indiscretion. Matters having reached this pass, I should be the last man in the world to "rub it in." But you *were* a naughty boy. And such a good Templar, too! JOHN BULL.

To His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Wm. Bagshaw), Southampton.

DEAR MR. MAYOR,—It would be difficult to find a more scathing illustration of the debasing effect of Party politics in municipal affairs than that furnished by the proceedings in the Council Chamber on the appointment of members to the Southampton Harbour Board. To what extent your Worship is concerned as a Conservative Mayor with the obvious determination of the Conservative majority of the Council to pack the Harbour Board with its own nominees I am not in a position to determine. It is, however, evident that the primary cause of the Council Chamber being transformed into a bear garden was the prearranged decision of your Party caucus to elect to the Board seven gentlemen, six of whom were Conservatives, the other being nominated as an Independent—as if all the business abilities, all the business rectitude, and the knowledge of local needs, all the qualities and all the high motives which constitute the ideal citizen engaging his heart and conscience in municipal affairs, were their exclusive monopoly. That, sir, must be not only a ludicrous vanity and a grotesque self-delusion, but an affront to the representative of other political views, who, not less representatives of Southampton ratepayers, have proved themselves in the Council Chamber by honourable service and strenuous, unselfish devotion to affairs in the interests of the town.

JOHN BULL.

To Mr. George Shimmon, President Unitarian Adult School, Bury St. Edmund's.

DEAR SIR,—The evidence in the Bury St. Edmund's Police Court concerning the action of the Unitarian Adult Sunday School does not reflect credit upon any of you. Whatever objection you may have had to the presence of the Rev. George Ward, it was grossly improper to use personal violence to eject him. I am aware there had been rumours and suggestions against him "respecting his conduct," but none of you, apparently, had taken the slightest trouble to verify or investigate them. On mere rumours, without asking, you had condemned him as an unfit and improper person to attend the school in his capacity as Corresponding Secretary, and, acting solely on the prejudices you had formed, you threw him out—you and the other officers. Since that lamentable episode, I find there has been an official investigation of the charges against the Minister, conducted by the President, Treasurer, Secretary and a member of the Executive of the Eastern Unitarian Union; and that, having heard certain local "informers," they did not even think it necessary to call upon Mr. Ward for his defence, their unanimous conclusion being that "no fact has been stated, or even alleged, that affects Mr. Ward's fitness for the Unitarian ministry." It must be evident to you, therefore, that you and your colleagues acted without a shade of justification, and you ought to be thoroughly ashamed of yourselves.

JOHN BULL.

To J. C. Close-Brooks, Esq., C.C., Chairman Conservative Association, Macclesfield.

DEAR AND GALLANT FRIEND,—I am exceedingly sorry to hear that you have decided to resign the Chairmanship of the Macclesfield and District Association of Boy Scouts, because "it is no use pretending there is peace when there is no peace," because you are "determined to fight for bare justice in Ulster," and because it is not your "intention to fight with gloves on." How precisely you intend to fight I do not know, but I should have thought that command of the Boy Scouts would have given you a valuable unit for the cause you have so much at heart. I have looked carefully into the Regulations concerning the attire of officers commanding Boy Scouts in the field, and I find there is no objection to your taking your gloves off. I will add, gallant friend, that you may take off your coat and waistcoat, and even your shirt also, but I must tell you that the Regulations preserve a profound silence on the question of trousers. I mention these matters because I am sorry to see you withdrawing from the command of a great military organisation under a total misapprehension of the facts, and because I have been asked by many readers to endeavour to prevail on you to reconsider your disconcerting decision.

JOHN BULL.

Another Single Week Contest, £1,500 for an All-Correct Coupon. See page 31.

AK-BARRED!

WHY MASTERMAN DIDN'T "GET IN." (See page 8.)

THE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FETISH.

BY AN OLD TEACHER.

"Every boy who never misses an attendance will receive a beautiful medal from the County Council."

So sounds the dulcet voice of the teacher in thousands of our Council Schools; for County Education Committees, and I am ashamed to say many teachers, too, are full of enthusiasm for "perfect" attendance.

Once I, also, had the idea that every child should be encouraged to attend school on every possible occasion. Disillusion began when a pale-faced little man (who afterwards turned out to have the mumps) came up and said: "Please, teacher, I ought to be in bed, mother says, but I didn't want the class to lose my mark." We had an attendance banner in the school, and the class with the best attendance had the banner hung in its room for the following week. That is my chief objection to attendance prizes—they encourage children to attend when they are ill. A second reason is that they are unnecessary. Years ago, when every child had to pass an examination every year, it was no uncommon thing to see a wild-eyed mother dragging a crying child to the school door. But few children dislike school now. And those few don't try for attendance prizes.

In Kent, every child who obtains a medal from the Education Authority has to make a "perfect" attendance for the year. He must never be absent, and never late. I wonder how many members of the Education Authority could obtain one for such attention to their own business! And the result is that every year a number of youngsters—after having plodded patiently to school through wet or damp weather, after having missed their elders' outings and enjoyments, having kept from their brothers' weddings (they are allowed to go to one funeral)—find themselves so ill that they ought to be in bed; and even then they try, oh, so hard, to gain the coveted medal. There they sit by the school fire, white and weary, and at last, when they can't come any longer, they have lost their medal.

I know a boy whose eyesight will be damaged through life as a result of medal worship. Another had six months in hospital through going to school when unfit. Last year I read an account of a boy with a damaged leg who had been carried to school, while it was bad, on a fellow pupil's back. And the papers applauded it. I didn't.

Of course, every teacher tries to get a good attendance, but that is very different from "perfect" attendances.

Unfortunately, the Government grants to schools are paid on attendance, and head teachers' salaries depend largely on it, so that they dare not speak out as they should.

A MESSAGE TO THE MULLAH.

[A further sum of £25,000 has been voted to meet expenditure in connection with the activity of the "Mad" Mullah.]

Oh, Mullah! we called you mad,
And we talked about your crimes;
Your life we frequently had,
For we killed you several times;
But ev'ry time you were dead
As a doornail, or right as rain,
Directly we sang a jubilee
You came to life again.

Oh! Mullah who will not die,
Who declines to be even lost,
You cause us many a sigh
When we think of what you cost;
For the bill goes mounting up
By many and many a pound,
Yet you will not stop, you're still on top
Instead of underground.

Oh, Mullah! we're not polite
When we urge you are insane,
For you have your wits all right—
Which is why we still complain;
We'll admit you are not mad
Now isn't that handsomely said?
And, to make all square, we'll for once declare
You certainly are not dead!

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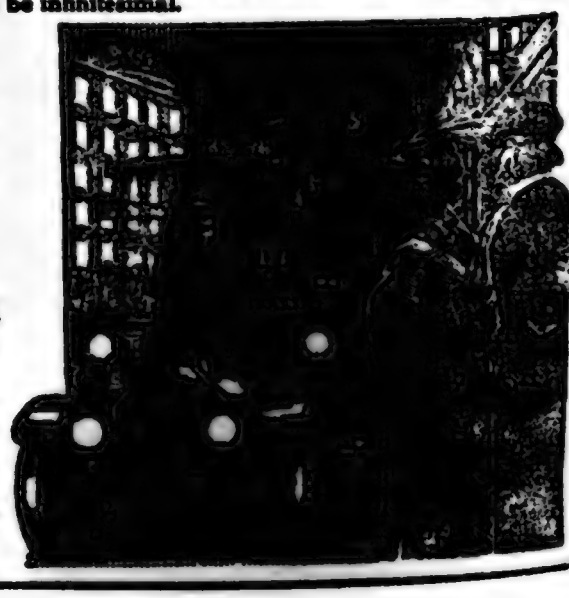

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Suppose, for instance, an accident happened in your own house. Just run down the list of common accidents and see what you could do to help. You will probably find there is very little, indeed, that you *could* do, and you will realise how invaluable even a little medical knowledge would be to you in such a case.

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Dr. Andrew Wilson, the famous physician, has written a book, the "Modern Physician," specially to provide this knowledge. It tells in simple language everything about the commoner ailments of life. It tells you not only how to cure sickness, but also how to avoid it. It has articles on the choice of food and living on air, exercise., sleep, and many other subjects of vital importance to the preservation of health, including invaluable advice on first aid in every possible emergency.

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One whole volume is devoted to that most important of subjects, the health of women and children. This section is of inestimable advantage to any mother maintaining her own and her family's health. Midwifery and the diseases of infancy and childhood are all covered fully.

An Abridged Synopsis of Contents will serve to give some idea as to how complete is its plan:

Skin and Disease—The Human Skeleton—General Diseases: Their Cause, Prevention, and Cure—Poisons—Chemical Composition of the Body—Digestive System: Diseases and Derangements thereof—Diseases of the Skin—Diseases of the Kidneys—Animal Parasites and the Diseases they Cause—Anatomy and Physiology of the Eye, Ear, Throat, etc.—Ambulance and First Aid Work: Directions for every Emergency—The Heart—Circulation of the Blood—Diseases of the Heart and Blood—Lungs and Functions of Breathing—Principles of Hygiene—Structure and Function of the Brain—Nervous System—Infection and Disinfection—The Germ Theory—Tropical Diseases—Family Medicine Chest: Drugs, Lotions, Ointments, Gargles, etc.—Home Nursing—Physical Culture—Massage—Hydropathy—Electrical Treatment—Special Features of Woman's Life—Ailments of Pregnancy—Complications of Labour—Diseases of Women—Care of Infants—Hygiene of Infancy—Infantile Ailments—The Toilet and Health.

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This remarkable letter from Mrs. E. Birch, of Lygon Place, Grosvenor Gardens, W., will be of considerable interest to the many readers of this paper who have wished they could play the piano or some other musical instrument, but have not been able to take lessons. It shows them that at last a book has been published which really does enable one to learn to sing or to play in one's own home without the expense and trouble of taking lessons.

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This book is the "Musical Educator," which any of our readers can obtain for a first payment of 1s. 6d only. It provides in compact and interesting form a complete musical education, written by many of the greatest of modern authorities. To take personal lessons from them would mean paying extremely high fees, for they include such famous musicians as Paderewski, Mark Hambourg, Caruso, Clara Butt, Madame Marchesi, John Dunn, Edwin H. Lemare, Sir F. H. Cowen.

But these are only eight out of many sections of this remarkable work, and it is obvious that no reader who wishes to learn music or to improve his or her present knowledge can afford to be without the "Musical Educator," particularly when it can be obtained so easily and so cheaply. But in order that our readers may learn all about the work before actually buying it, the publishers have prepared an interesting illustrated booklet describing it in full, which they will send free of charge on receipt of the form below. It should be sent at once to avoid delay.

Two Opinions.

SIR J. FREDERICK BRIDGE (Organist at Westminster Abbey) says:—

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Driving and Repairs.

The Book is full of invaluable information on all problems of driving and repairing a car, instructions being given for all possible difficulties in language that can be understood by the most unmechanical mind. The following are a few of the subjects dealt with:—

Cylinders, valves of all kinds, different types of engines, carburettors, ignition, silencers, gears and clutches, radiators, cooling systems, brakes, lubricators, lighting systems, artillery and wire wheels, tyres, fuels and how to use them (including all the new petrol substitutes), tools and repair appliances, etc., etc.

Cycle-Cars and Motor-Cycles.

The work pays full attention to motor cycles and cycle-cars, full details and instruction being given for all those points wherein they must be treated differently from the more powerful motor-car.

It is profusely illustrated with full-page plates, drawings in plan, section and elevation, diagrams and photographs, as well as a series of sectional movable models in colour showing in detail the actual working parts of a car.

Mr. CHARLES JARROTT writes:—

"I think 'The Book of the Motor Car' invaluable. As a book of reference it will be of great value to me and everyone who is keenly interested in their car should have a copy."

FREE BOOKLET.

To the Caxton Publishing Co., Ltd.,
34, Surrey Street, London, W.C.

Please send me free of charge, and without any obligation on my part, your illustrated booklet giving full particulars of "The Book of the Motor-Car" and your offer to deliver the complete work for a first payment of 1s. 6d only.

Name .....
(Send this form or a postcard)

Address .....

.....

Visitor: "Is this an Old Master?"
Old Butler: "Lor, bless yer, no sir; that's the old missus!"

MORE TROUBLE ON THE LINE.

THE PORTERS AND THE PICTURE PAPERS.
(Communicated.)

At last some of the Officials employed by the L.B. & S.C. Railway are beginning to wake up and are asserting their rights.

For some time past it has been the custom of guards, porters and others of the uniformed and underpaid staff employed at London Bridge to help themselves to a daily paper or so, which may have been left in a compartment by some well-meaning and kindly disposed person, who very probably left it there for that express purpose.

It has also been the practice or privilege for a considerable quantity of the papers taken from the trains to be sent into the various offices at London Bridge, of which there are not a few, for the benefit of the higher grade officials, which was a very fair and satisfactory arrangement.

But now the higher grade of non-uniformed officials are complaining that they do not get the proper percentage of picture papers which they think they are entitled to, and have commenced to take active steps in the matter.

Therefore the stern decree has gone forth that any guard, porter or other of the uniformed staff discovered entering a compartment and feloniously purloining the picture paper that was left there for him, is to be reported to a certain high official, who will deal with him as he thinks fit.

(The severity of the punishment meted out will probably depend on whether the high official has had *his* picture paper that morning!)

It may be, however, really a blessing in disguise, as in future guards, porters and others of the great underpaid, instead of sitting by the fireside (if they have one) after their day's toil wasting their time looking at picture papers, will be studying the financial duties for railway dividends, etc., and will probably obtain valuable information regarding the best way of investing the surplus cash left over from their exorbitant week's salary.

PROHIBITION RUN MAD.

WILL WESTERN WAYS WORK WONDERS?

While there is a strong body of total abstainers in this country who are anxious to put down the "drink traffic" at all costs, they are far behind their friends across the Atlantic. American extremists will brook no opposition and absolutely dictate to a man what he will be allowed to drink. Even an Englishman, on a long train journey in the States—that may last about a week—will often find, to his great disappointment, that the courteous, though firm, dining car steward will tell him that the law will not allow him to serve any intoxicating liquor because, forsooth, the train is then passing through a "Prohibition" or "dry" State. Again, in the whole Province of Ontario the only bars for which a licence is granted must belong to *bonâ fide* hotels, and even these must be closed from seven on Saturday evening till eight on Monday morning. This makes interesting reading, in view of the present agitation in London to extend the opening of bars beyond 12.30 at night, but it absolutely pales into insignificance before the latest proposals of the extremists in the Welland County of Ontario. These drastic opponents of the "liberty of the subject" and herald angels of the teetotalers' Millennium, have actually resolved to petition the Provincial Legislature and the Dominion Parliament to pass a measure that will include the following clauses:—

1.—To prohibit the manufacture of liquor.
2.—To prohibit the selling by wholesale of liquor.
3.—To prohibit the purchase by wholesale of liquor.
4.—To prohibit the selling by retail of liquor.
5.—To prohibit the purchase by retail of liquor.
6.—To prohibit the transportation of liquor in any way, manner or form.
7.—*To prohibit having possession of liquor in any form.*
8.—To provide a severe penalty and punishment for the breach of any of these offences against this law.

When, if ever, these "dry days" do arrive, we may look for a steady stream of emigration *from* Canada and America *to* Britain.

Result of Our No. 11 Football Contest. See page 5.

SCOTCH WHISKY

Fully matured, mellowed with age and free from all acridity, "Iona" at once appeals to the palate of those who appreciate the best in Scotch Whisky.

Blended with unusual care from the choicest spirits, "Iona" possesses an unequalled flavour and will come as a revelation to those who have hitherto been content with ordinary blends.

"IONA" can be obtained from your wine and spirit merchant. If he hasn't it in stock, he can get it for you.

G. & J. Maclachlan Ltd., Glasgow.

Aschentoshan Distillery, Established 1820.
183 N.B.

Are You Tobacco Particular?

Are you one of those men to whom a really good tobacco appeals—one for whom "any kind of tobacco" will not do? Do you like a tobacco so fragrant that it can be smoked anywhere where a cigar is permitted? A tobacco that is cool and free from "boiling" in the pipe? A tobacco that you can study with, work with, dream with? If you do, next time try a packet of

CRAVEN "A" MIXTURE

"Sixpence an ounce."

CARRERAS, LTD., CITY ROAD, LONDON, E.C.; and at 61, Piccadilly, W.
Established 1788

THOUGHT BABY WOULD DIE

Bronchitis, Whooping Cough, and Lung Trouble. No treatment of the slightest avail, until Veno's made him Bright and Bonny.

Everyone knew what was the matter with Mrs. Cheeseman's baby—knew that it was Bronchitis and Lung Trouble, perhaps the most frequently fatal of all lung or chest diseases; but poor little baby was so far gone that we thought there was nothing that could save her. And yet there was something that could and did restore that little sufferer to health—Veno's Lightning Cough Cure.

Here is **Mrs. Cheeseman's** own story, which can be verified by writing to her at **17, Willow Street, Pages Walk, London, S.E.** She says: "My little girl was just six weeks old when she was taken with Whooping Cough. I did not know at first what was the matter; but when the whoop came there was no doubt. I tried home remedies, but she did not get better; in fact, she grew worse, and I had advice. I was told my baby was suffering from Bronchitis and Lung Trouble, and that it was hardly possible she could recover. The medicine I got did no good at all, and I certainly thought my baby must die.

"She was at her worst when a friend urged me to try Veno's Lightning Cough Cure, and, oh, how glad I am that I did! Very soon there was a change for the better. Baby brightened up wonderfully, and improved every day. Veno's Lightning Cough Cure loosened the phlegm and healed the lungs as nothing else could do, and to-day my baby is as bright and bonny at eight months as any baby could be. I may say I used Veno's Lightning Fluid, too, and that helped the cure greatly, I feel sure."

Baby Cheeseman, London.

AWARDED GRAND PRIX & GOLD MEDAL, PARIS HEALTH EXHIBITION, 1910.

VENO'S LIGHTNING COUGH CURE

Veno's Lightning Cough Cure is the safest and surest remedy for

COUGHS AND COLDS. BRONCHITIS. LUNG TROUBLES. INFLUENZA. DIFFICULT BREATHING. ASTHMA. NASAL CATARRH. CHILDREN'S COUGHS. OLD-AGE COUGHS. BLOOD-SPITTING.

9½d A Bottle.

Larger sizes, 1/1½ and 2/9. The 2/9 size is the most economical. Of all Chemists and medicine vendors the world over, or post free from

THE VENO DRUG CO., LTD., Veno Buildings, Manchester.

SMOKES FOR MEN *v.* VOTES FOR WOMEN.

*[At a recent suffragist meeting at Canning Town four of Miss Sylvia Pankhurst's male "army" refused to desist from smoking, saying: "If we ain't going to smoke we ain't going to come here no more."—*NEWS ITEM.

DEAR JOHN,—
I think you oughter know
Exactly wot occurred
Darn at Miss Sylvia Pankhurst's show.
Of which you may 'ave 'card.

My mates and I believes in votes
Fur wimmin, unnerstand,
An' don't mind takin' orf our coats
To lend the cause a 'and.

We jined Miss Sylvia's "army," for
We thort a chawnce might come
Fur bashin' coppers in the joro,
Becos we 'ate the scum!

So *h*every night we chase 'er rarnd
An' sit an' 'car 'er spart,
An' very useful we've bin farnd
Fur chuckin' people art.

Well, t'other night, at Cannin' Tarn,
Wile Sylvia wagged 'er chin,
And we wos quietly sittin' darn,
Bill pawssed 'is 'bacca tin.

We loaded up an' sucked our clays
Like gen'l'men at ease,
W'en some young gal comes up an' says,
"Now then—no smokin', please!"

O' corse we wos indignant, and
I awsked 'er to explain:
"If we cawn't smoke, miss, unnerstand,
We don't come 'ere again.

"'We're keen on Votes fur Wimmin, but
We'll 'ave to change our flag
If I cawn't smoke my navy cut
An' my mates 'ere their shag."

Now, since that little *h*incident
I don't feel 'arf so keen,
Becos I some'ow seem ter scent
Wot votes fur wimmin mean.

They'll cut us orf our smoke an' beer,
An' p'r'aps a good deal more;
Yores truly, mister, an' sincere—
ONE OF THE BLOOMIN' FOUR.

OUR CRANKS' CORNER.

One day a man was strolling along a busy thoroughfare when he suddenly espied two purses lying on the footway. Although poor, he was honest and, not giving temptation half a chance, he hurried to the nearest police-station, where he delivered them up. They each contained a large sum of money, and were claimed the next day, when the owners called upon the poor man to thank and reward him for his honesty. The first was a poor woman who had been to draw her life's savings from the bank in order to start a little shop. She would take no denial, but thrust one of her hard-earned sovereigns upon the man and left him, after heaping blessings upon his head. The other was a rich man who had been on his way to the bank, when he had dropped his purse. He beamed upon the poor man and, taking a coin from his pocket said, "You are honest, my good fellow, and honesty is its own reward. But I consider that you deserve something. Here is a sixpence, and I thank you kindly." But the glow of honest pride on the poor man's face outshone the brilliance of his great reward.

Let us Send You this Tube FREE

Full week's Supply of the New Remedy for

PILES.

Readers of this peper now have a special opportunity of trying the unique Australian remedy for PILES and other rectal troubles by merely sending 2d. in stamps to cover cost of postage and packing for the "7 Day Free Treatment." This offer is made because the proprietors have had such convincing evidence of its remarkable curative properties in Australia that they want to give every sufferer in this country the opportunity of obtaining relief from Pain and Irritation.

This Australian Remedy prevents the use of the surgeon's knife, and the sufferer can try it without inconvenience or discomfort. Think of it! only 2d. in stamps to secure freedom from pain! and directly this healing remedy is applied the almost intolerable itching and irritation is subdued, and finally vanishes, to be succeeded by a wonderful feeling of relief and comfort. Even if you are told by doctors that an operation is your only remedy—do not despair, but send now and try this treatment, which has cured thousands of the very worst cases.

SEVEN-DAY FREE COUPON.

To J. B. LONBRO Co.,
18, Wells St., Oxford St., London.

Please send me free your 7-day Australian treatment for Piles, for which I enclose 2d. in stamps for postage and packing.

Name.....

Address .....

.....

A

WORD

WITH

"ANSWERS"

See this Week's

"COMPETITORS' JOURNAL."

On sale at Messrs. Smith's stalls and at every other live newsagents.

ONE PENNY.

IN THE OLD DAYS

One could have as good a shave as is possible to-day, the Hollow-ground Blade predominating then as it does now. The first Safety Razor the "STAR," was placed on the market in 1875, the invention of a young cutler who had cut his features rather considerably, with an old-style razor. Many "safeties" have followed since, mostly with "wafer" blades which require replacing after a few shaves. "AS THE BLADE, SO THE SHAVE." With the "STAR," "THE VALUE IS IN THE BLADE." It lasts for years and the first cost is the last.

List of Sets from 5/6 to £5.

7/6 for Set as illustrated with silver-plated Frame and Handle.

Of all High-Class Cutlers,

or **MARKT & CO. (Ldn.), Ltd.,**

98/100, Clerkenwell Road, LONDON, E.C.

"TIZ" FOR SORE, TIRED FEET — Ah!

"Such a Relief! How my sore, puffed-up, perspiring feet ached for "TIZ."

Ah! what relief. No more tired feet; no more burning feet; no more swollen, perspiring feet. No more soreness in corns, hard skin, bunions.

No matter what ails your feet or what under the sun you've tried without getting relief, just use TIZ. TIZ is the only remedy that draws out all the poisonous exudations which puff up the feet. TIZ cures your foot trouble so that you'll never limp or draw up your face in pain. Your shoes won't seem tight and your feet will never, never hurt or get sore and swollen. Think of it, no more foot misery, no more agony from corns, hard skin, or bunions.

Get a 1/½ box at any chemist's or store and get instant relief. Wear smaller shoes. Just once try TIZ. Get a whole year's foot comfort for only 1/½. Think of it.

The Strong Search Light of Publicity

reveals no weakness in our methods. These are the stones on which we have built success: Honesty of purpose, absolute efficiency, undoubted fairness, prompt fulfilment of obligations. Investigation by the press has always been welcomed. Read carefully the following comments:

"JOHN BULL" says:—

"We have many times expressed satisfaction with Mr. H. Diamond's methods, and can assure our readers that, from beginning to end, each sweep promoted by him is absolutely straight, square and above board."

WINNERS OF £500.

E. M. HUGHES, Tan-Lan, Bethesda, North Wales.
W. HARGRAVE, Royal Marine Infirmary, Deal, Kent.
A. B. WYATT, 3 Falmer Road, Enfield, Middlesex.
H. COLCHIN, Junr., Woolpack Inn, Iwade, Sittingbourne.
T. PHILIPS, 34 The Park, Treharris.
B. AINLEY, 10 Hamilton Street, Old Trafford, Manchester.
C. J. GOULTER, 1 St. George's Road, Kingston Hill, Surrey.
J. J. RICHARDS, 9 Shannon Grove, Brixton, London, S.W.
W. H. BLACKSHAW, The Lea, Denham, Bucks.
F. SMITH, 241 High Street, Porth, Glam.
W. H. COWDERY, Forester's Arms, Coxgreen, Maidenhead.

WINNERS OF £1,000.

J. JOBSON, 12, Panmure Street, Dundee.

G. W. WEBB, J.P. Architect, Market Place Chambers, Reading.

F. C. PAPWORTH, 127 Felsham Road, Putney, London.

R. P. WEEKS, 50, Bailey Street, Brynmawr, Brecon, South Wales.

H. DIAMOND

LUCERNE SWITZERLAND

LETTER POSTAGE 2½ POST CARDS 1P

SIDELIGHTS ON PARTY POLITICS.

IV.—SHUFFLING THE "PACK."

We often conclude our constant comments on the wiles and absurdities of the Party system with the words: "What a game it is!" The analogy is a good one, for, as in most card games, it is periodically necessary to shuffle the pack. This interesting operation has only recently been performed by the Prime Minister. To vary the metaphor, under the magic wand of Mr. Asquith, five interesting metamorphoses have been effected. Observed with cynical indifference by the Man in the Street, who knows the time is rapidly approaching when such blatant log-rolling and back-scratching will be possible no longer, a President of the Board of Trade has changed into a Governor-General of South Africa; a President of the Local Government Board has turned into a President of the Board of Trade; a Postmaster-General has become a President of the Local Government Board; a Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster has been transformed into a Postmaster-General; and a Secretary to the Treasury has assumed the form and semblance of a Chancellor of the Duchy!

Let us assume for the moment that all these changes have become necessary owing to the resignation, on the score of ill-health, of Lord Gladstone, the Governor-General of South Africa. A successor had to be found. Under a Business Government a search would at once have been made for the most able and suitable man for the post, irrespective of his politics or religious creed. The man most capable of handling the tangled skein of South African affairs; the man whose character and experience, intellect and tact, best qualified him to occupy the position of supreme authority in the South African Commonwealth, would have been chosen, and have carried with him to Pretoria the authority and prestige not of a political party, but of a national Committee of Selection.

Instead, what do we see? We see a political partisan of no particular personality, who has done a perfunctory round of two or three of the various Departments of State; who has been successively Postmaster-General and President of the Board of Trade, and has left no mark on either of those offices; one who has had no experience to qualify him for dealing with the crude and antagonistic forces which go to the making of a new country and an embryo people, pitch-forked into a position calculated to try the strength of the greatest constructive political genius that the Empire could produce. Above all, it is rumoured that the same consideration, health, that caused Lord Gladstone to resign his post, has induced Mr. Buxton to accept it!

Mr. Buxton's withdrawal from the Cabinet was accompanied by a series of promotions. Mr. Burns succeeds him at the Board of Trade. Why? Has "Honest John" acquitted himself so well at the Local Government Board that he has earned a rise? If so, increase his salary or make him some other substantial recognition of his services, and *let him continue the job he has done so well.* But his change of office carries no increased emoluments. If, on the other hand, he has failed in the control of his department, why should he be expected to do better in another—remembering that his training and experience have not qualified him for either?

If, again, Mr. Herbert Samuel has shown himself to be a capable Postmaster-General, is not it absurd to snatch him from the office he adorns and plant him in a post for which his fitness has yet to be proved? Better by far to reward and encourage him by way of an increased salary, and retain him in the position in which he has served (we will presume, for the sake of argument) the public well.

Incidents such as these serve to show the farcical lines on which Party Government is run. Is not it absurd that in these days, when the importance of specialising is recognised in every department of human activity, the Government of the Greatest Empire That The World Has Seen is in the hands of a *coterie* of political partisans, who "swop" jobs whenever it suits their purpose or their fancy, indifferent to the interests of the people they are appointed to serve?

What a game—what a *wretched* game it is!

It is absolutely unnecessary for you to suffer another moment of pain.

PILES CAN BE CURED WITHOUT OPERATION

By my wonderful Absorption Method, which is Curing Even 70-year-old Sufferers.

Fill in the Free Coupon.

To every person cutting out and sending me the coupon below at once, I will send free to try my Complete and Rational three-fold Absorption Cure for Piles, Ulcer, Fissure, Prolapse, Tumours, Constipation and all Rectal troubles. In the thousands of cases that I treat every year for Rectal troubles in every form, I am astonished at the number of cases that I meet with which have become chronic simply through carelessness and false modesty. No true case of Piles will ever cure itself, and it is not fair to those who may be dependent upon you to risk the danger of some malignant form of Rectal trouble. My Three-fold Treatment has cured cases of Chronic Rectal trouble of over 40 years' standing. I have cured hundreds of cases where patients have been advised that their only hope was an operation. Mr. Henry Stott, of Middlesboro'-on-Tees, says:—"I suffered five years from Piles, and tried every treatment that I heard of. Medical assistance did nothing for me, and I was informed that an operation was the only hope. I used your treatment, and from the first I felt the benefit, and I am now permanently cured." I am willing to send you my regular 4s. 6d. treatment absolutely free for you to try. If you feel after using this that you have received benefit you may send me 4s. 6d., but if you have not I don't want you to send a penny. The decision is left absolutely to you. Surely, with everything to gain and nothing to lose you will not hesitate to write in at once for this treatment. All correspondence is strictly confidential, and the regular 4s. 6d. treatment will be sent you under plain cover, securely sealed. Write at once to Dr. G. W. Van Vleck, MN 28, Bangor House, Shoe Lane, London, E.C.

GILES W. VAN VLECK, M.D., LL.D., Founder of the Dr. Van Vleck Company and the Rational Treatment for Piles.

FREE COUPON.

Giles W. Van Vleck hereby guarantees to send Free to try a new Rational Three-fold 4s. 6d. Treatment for

Piles

and all diseases of the Rectum. Send no money.

NAME .....

ADDRESS ..... MN28.

TRY the new mixture made by Taddy's who have been blending choice tobaccos since the reign of George II.
TADDY'S
LONDON MIXTURE
Always smoke Taddy's Tobacco. The finest tobacco in the best blend.
London Mixture is packed in 1-oz. and 2-oz. packets and in 2-oz. ½-lb and ¼-lb tins. 5d. per ounce.

SPECIAL ABILITY

is often very hard to market. There are many men with a Special Knowledge or Aptitude which fits them to occupy Responsible Positions, who somehow cannot get into touch with the opportunities they seek. We have large numbers of High Grade Positions open which call for, and pay for, Special Ability. If you think you can fill one of them—and your record is good—write us to-day—or call.

HAPGOODS, Ltd., Employment Experts, 167-168, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

SPECIAL OFFER to all suffering from

RHEUMATISM, SCIATICA, LUMBAGO, GOUT,

or any URIC ACID complaint.

To convince you that

1s. 11d. PER BOTTLE. **Gervikol** TRIAL SIZE 6d.

the wonderful remedy which has cured many, will really benefit you, we will send post free on receipt of 6d. (to cover cost of preparation and packing), a generous size trial sample. Your money will be refunded when purchasing a 1/11 bottle.

APIA Manufacturing Co., 127b, Minories, London, E.C.

Beware of the Shadowy Third!

Furnish at the "Midland," and save the huge sums charged elsewhere for middleman's profit.

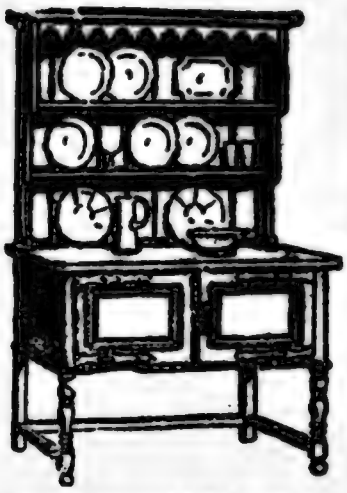
There is no "Shadowy Third" at the "Midland." But elsewhere he is present only too often. He is the Middleman, whose intermediate profits are included in the high prices which are charged elsewhere.

He is a third party to every transaction—a shadowy third whose profits come out of your pocket.

Money buys more at the "Midland."

They are actual manufacturers, and so save you the intermediate profits usually charged. Moreover, their huge turnover and command of markets enable them to charge the lowest prices compatible with real sterling quality.

The "Midland" charge nothing for credit—no deposit, no interest. Customers can also obtain free insurance policies whereby **all furniture purchased on Ideal Terms becomes the absolute property of the wife,** in the event of the death of the purchaser. **All Furniture** thus purchased is also **insured against fire, free.**



Soundly constructed Oak Dresser of quaint design, with roomy cupboard in the lower part, and oxydized hinges and fittings. Finished in any shade desired.
£3 3s. 0d.

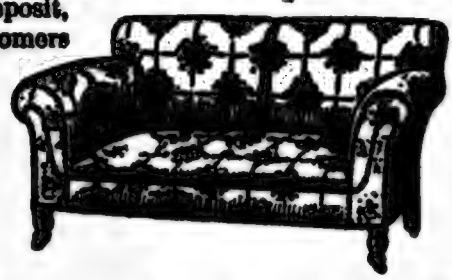
Ideal Terms
Town or Country.

Worth.			Per Month.		
£10	...	...	£0	6	0
£20	...	...	0	11	0
£30	...	...	0	17	0
£40	...	...	1	5	0
£50	...	...	1	8	0
£100	...	...	2	5	0
£200	...	...	4	10	0

Larger amounts pro rata.

A luxurious upholstered wing-chair, covered with art tapestry.
£1 8s. 6d.

Customers' Fares Paid to Town on all orders of £20 and over.



Country Orders packed and delivered free.

A luxuriously sprung and upholstered 3-piece Drawing-room suite covered in tapestry to suit customer's taste. The settee has drop-ends. Magnificent value at
£10 10s. 0d.

Write for the "Midland" Book of Furniture.

This new and very handsome volume—the finest and most comprehensive Guide to Furnishing ever published—contains over 1,000 photographs actually taken in our Furniture salons. The book will be sent free on receipt of a postcard with your address. Write for it to-day.

10 per cent. discount for cash.

Midland

Furnishing Company, Ltd.,

Contractors to H.M. Crown Agents for the Colonies,

15 to 23, Southampton Row, Holborn, London, W.C.

Seven doors from Holborn and Holborn Tube Station. 1 minute from British Museum Tube Station.
Hours—9 till 6 Sats—9 till 1.

Governing Director, **GEORGE MICHAEL** *(who has been associated with the business for 40 years).*

No Branch Establishments.

"BULLETS" EASILY FIRST!

MOST POPULAR—BEST-JUDGED—BIGGEST PRIZES!

"Bullets" is the leading skill competition and has broken all records.

First Prize. **£500** **First Prize.**

2nd Prize	3rd Prize	20 Prizes of	50 Prizes of
£50	£25	£2-10-0	£1 EACH.

500 Prizes of 5s.	2,500 Prizes of 2/6

AND

2,000 OTHER HANDSOME PRIZES.

Bullets can only be constructed from any of these 40 Examples:—

IN PARLIAMENT	COST DISAPPOINTING WHEN	WITHOUT PREJUDICE	AMERICAN IMPORTATIONS
THE NEW MANAGER	WITHOUT CASH	BUYING FURNITURE	RAISING THE DUST
BEST DEFENCE	RETIRING DISPOSITION	WREATHED IN SMILES	POLICEMAN'S DUTY
SPEAKING HER MIND	LAUGHTER IN COURT	MOVING STORIES	BAD BILLS
CHIEF LESSONS	HE'S ENDED	JOINING THE ARMY	TIME FOR REFLECTION
OLD MAN	PULLING THE STRINGS	COSTS TOO MUCH	FOND EMBRACE
AN AWKWARD SCRAPE	RUNNING AWAY	MAKING FACES	A DECENT FELLOW
TASTES DIFFER	WHEN LOVERS PART	A SPORTING OFFER	HUBBY'S OPINION
LIKES THE BOTTLE	COMMANDS RESPECT	COOL CHECK	TAKING WRONG TURNING
CUTTING PRICES	A FAST TIME	WHY SHE LEFT	HOT AND STRONG

How to Make Bullets. First choose any of our forty examples. Then give two words or three words having some bearing on the example chosen. The FIRST AND LAST word selected MUST begin with ANY OF THE LETTERS in the example chosen. If three words are selected any word can be used as the middle word.

For instance, if you take the example "HOT AND STRONG," and take the letter "O" and "T," using the word "Begets" as the middle word, you can make the Bullet "ONION BEGETS TEARS." From the example, "SPEAKING HER MIND," the Bullet "GENERALLY INSTATES," can be formed.

Again, if you choose the example, "RUNNING AWAY," using the letter "W" as initial for both the first and last words, you can form the Bullet "WAGES AFTER WEDLOCK."

Competitors can send in two BULLETS on one coupon for sixpence. But if both coupons are used a postal order for one shilling must be sent.

The ink will not run if the coupon is slightly warmed before being used.

Competitors can see the "Bullets" Judges at work at any time.

Closing date, Wednesday, March 4th.

Example.....

Bullet.....

Example.....

Bullet.....

(74) P.O. No.....

I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page.

Signed.....

Address.....

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

Not more than three words may be used to construct a Bullet.

This week's Bullets Coupons will also be found in "MARY BULL" dated March 7th.

Closing date, Wednesday, March 4th.

Example.....

Bullet.....

Example.....

Bullet.....

(74) P.O. No.....

I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page.

Signed.....

Address.....

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

If Both Coupons Are Used a Postal Order or 1/- Must be Sent.

ENVELOPES SHOULD BE MARKED "BULLETS NO. 74," "JOHN BULL," LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C. Write "COMPETITION" on top left hand corner of Envelope.

"BULLETS" RULES

(Which must be strictly adhered to).

1. The First Prize will be awarded for what, in the opinion of the Editor, and his special staff of adjudicators, is the best Bullet received, and the other prizes in order of merit. In the event of equal originality and cleverness will be taken into account. The right to divide a prize or prizes among two or more competitors is reserved.
2. Bullets must be plainly written on one of the coupons in this page, and only two attempts may be sent on each coupon.
3. Both coupons may be used, but each coupon must be accompanied by a postal order for 6d., made payable to JOHN BULL, and crossed _____ & Co. Competitors must write their names and addresses _____ and the date of sending the order on the back of the postal order, and the number of which must be duly noted on each coupon submitted. Competitors sending more than one coupon may enclose one postal order for the full amount covering the number of their coupons. Stamps will not be accepted.
4. Coupons must not be defaced in any manner, or have pasted on of another coupon affixed upon them.
5. Entries must reach us not later than the first post on the morning of Wednesday, March 4th.
6. The Editor undertakes, that every Bullet received shall have careful consideration by a competent staff of qualified judges.
7. The Editor's decision on any matter of dispute arising in connection with this competition must be accepted as final and legally binding in all respects, and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry.

Excitement of chance enters into the adjudication of our "Bullets" Competition. Every coupon is judged by TWO DIFFERENT members of our special staff of Adjudicators, who have been selected by reason of their high qualification for this work. The method thus avoids all coupons which they consider sufficiently meritorious to qualify for a prize. So that, before any coupon is selected TWO DIFFERENT Judges have to decide that it is out of the ordinary in merit to secure a prize. These all coupons selected are considered by the Competition Editor in consultation with the Judges. In this manner the coupons are reduced in number to correspond with the total number of prizes to be awarded. The Competition Editor then, in consultation with the Judges, next selects all the coupons of outstanding merit. These are placed before the Editor, who after consultation, decides finally the order of merit. The system of judging keeps a large staff of Adjudicators continually employed throughout the week—so thoroughly is the work done. We would point out that, by this system of judging, no award is decided arbitrarily by one mind. It is only after a line has been considered sufficiently meritorious by a BODY OF JUDGES IN CONSULTATION, all of whom are specially qualified for the work, that it can receive a cash or any other prize. As regards the principal prizes, the coupons of outstanding merit are considered many times by the Editor, and also by the Competition Editor and the Adjudication staff in consultation, before the final awards are made. In a sentence, ALL coupons are read and considered and re-read and re-considered, by a specially selected staff of highly qualified Adjudicators, under the general supervision of an experienced Competition Expert—and in consultation with the Editor. That is why "Bullets" constitute a genuine skill contest, free from any and every element of arbitrary decision or of chance election.

Result of 71st. Bullets Competition.

FIRST PRIZE OF £50:—

Mr. P. L. KEEBLE,
76, Conway Road,
Plumstead. London, S.E.

Example:—NEIGHBOUR'S BABY.
Bullet:—OUR "MORNING ADVERTISER."

SECOND PRIZE OF £25:—

Mr. HEDLEY SCOTT,
69, Linskill Terrace,
North Shields.

Example:—FALSE STEP.
Bullet:—THIRST CAUSES FIRST.

THIRD PRIZE OF £25:—

Mr. GEORGE RITCHIE,
8, Millburn Street,
Aberdeen, Scotland.

Example:—MOST EXCITING WHEN.
Bullet:—CHALK LINE WOBBLES.

CONTINUATION OF WINNERS p. 31.

THE RESULT OF THIS COMPETITION WILL APPEAR IN OUR ISSUE DATED MARCH 21st.

Bull's Eyes.

NOTES OF INTERROGATION :—

How does Baron de Forest like "home" truths?

Isn't the Somaliland Mullah "taking things easily"?

Have the Herefordshire Education Authorities learned their Latin?

Is "No English Need Apply" to be our business motto in future?

Isn't "settle meant" the coming solution of the Home Rule problem?

Do you know that "B-u-l-l-e-t" spells "Money"? See page 28?

Are the "waistcoats for women," mentioned as coming in, of the "strait" variety?

Do the M.P.s who decline to take their salaries know the value of their services?

* * *

A sovereign in hand is worth two in the "Bull and Bush."

* * *

A new film is described as a "breath-stopper." It must be killing.

* * *

To possess a large number of friends one must be an accomplished liar.

* * *

Before she is married a girl reads romances; afterwards, she listens to them.

* * *

"Dropping the baby," is the name of a new piece. It ought to raise a scream.

* * *

"Greetings by aeroplane," we read. A novel way for folk to air their views.

* * *

A contemporary announces, "We buy the truth." What do they do with it?

* * *

Wouldn't de Forestation of the land be a reversal of the Government's policy?

* * *

Chicago is said to be the most impatient city in the world. No wonder it gets on.

* * *

"Love is a food," we read. Maybe, but a poor one, for a lover is never satisfied.

* * *

A man who married eleven times has just died. "R. I. P." should be his inscription.

* * *

The third Peace Conference will not be held until 1917. Till then we shall have peace.

* * *

The heading, "Mr. Lloyd George and Two Dukes," certainly suggests the fighting spirit.

* * *

Threats to wreck Lloyd George's train have been made. Why not upset his apple-cart?

* * *

We read that "Justice Bucknill never wanted time." No; he always gave it to deserving cases.

* * *

West End stores have been asking 5s. a pound for green peas. They are "forced" to sell at this price.

* * *

Lord Charles Beresford says the Government are on the run. Trying to get ahead of the Opposition, perhaps?

* * *

Miss Marie Lloyd is reported to have whipped an editor in Vancouver. More "Stars" and "Stripes."

* * *

A man awarded £125 for the loss of an eye has decided to buy a farm with the money. An eye to business.

* * *

The new play at the Cri. is to be "A Pair of Silk Stockings." The obvious question is, "Who's the Lady?"

* * *

The idea of an Authors' Bank has been mooted. Objectors to the scheme say there would be nothing in it.

* * *

Charles Frohman wants an exchange of dramatists between this country and America. Well, we couldn't lose.

* * *

If, as an American professor states, thin dresses make women eat more, we shall not invite a Salome dancer to supper.

* * *

A correspondent says "he can't see much in the present style of feminine dress." What's the matter with his eyesight?

Printer's Pie.

(THE WORK OF THE "DEVIL.")

"EXPRESS AND ECHO" (Exeter) announcement :—

"2s. 6d. Reward will be paid for name of small boy who pushed a Cab Horse down in the Station Yard, Teignmouth."

"WORTHING GAZETTE" report :—

"The wedding was solemnised at Mission Lake, near Raymon, Saskatchewan, recently, of Mr. ——, eldest son of Mr. ——, formerly of Worthing, to Miss ——, eldest daughter of the LATE Mr. ——, a neighbouring farmer. . . . THE BRIDE WAS GIVEN AWAY BY HER FATHER."

"HIGH PEAK NEWS" :—

"In another column we report the annual dinner of the Eyam Association for the Prosecution of Felons. It is surely a record for this part of the country, the ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND ANNIVERSARY. We congratulate the Society and its OFFICERS ON SO LENGTHY A SERVICE."

"REGIMENT" report of Second Round, London Territorial Football Cup :—

"Play was fast and keen throughout, although a STILL breeze rendered accurate play VERY DIFFICULT."

"EVENING EXPRESS" (Cardiff) :—

"The King and Queen are visiting the Drury Lane pantomime this evening. This is the FIRST TIME his Majesty has witnessed a pantomime THIS EVENING. . . . Mr. Lord George, accompanied by Lord Reading, and Sir George Riddell, left for Walton Heath this morning."

"DERRY STANDARD" report :—

"Mr. G. J. Scott, C.P.S., associated himself with the motion, and said that Chevalier Hannigan was a very kind friend, an impartial Magistrate, and a Christian gentleman who 'loved to do good by stealth, and blushed to find it FAIL.'"

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DARTFORD AGENDA, dated 6th February :—

"Received application to CONNECT ALICE DEAN, Swanley Village, TO THE SEWER."

"YORKSHIRE EVENING PRESS" report :—

"The widow was MARRIED BY THREE SONS, Peter, Henry, and Cormack Mullen—AND FOUR DAUGHTERS."

"WAINWRIGHT STAR" (Alberta) :—

"Dr. McQueen announces that from now on he will be practising his profession as dentist here ALL THE TIME, EXCEPT FROM MONDAY TO SATURDAY of each month at his office, Fifth Avenue."

"PAISLEY DAILY EXPRESS" :—

"Belgian King's LEG Broken.—King Albert was thrown from his horse and broke his left ARM."

"GRAPHIC" :—

"When I visited this city IN THE SUMMER OF 1812 the streets were torn up for the construction of an electric tramway system."

"PENNY MAGAZINE" :—

"Gisbourne sat down and very soon enjoyed a MEAL that he had not TOUCHED FOR YEARS."

WILLESDEN MAGISTRATE, according to *Daily News* report :—

"Some of you women would be a DISGRACE to Australian aboriginals, with whom you COMPARE FAVOURABLY."

"MONTREAL DAILY STAR" :—

"John Geiger, the violinist, is always popular. He includes some new selections this season, too, which add to the attractiveness of his SUFFERING."

"NORTHERN WEEKLY GAZETTE" :—

"By the death of Mrs. —— ——, Newcastleton lost its OLDEST inhabitant. Mrs. —— was in her 14th YEAR, having been born in Newcastleton on JUNE 4TH, 1910."

Half-a-crown is paid to the sender of every item published in this column. Should more than one competitor call attention to the same blunder, the amount will be forwarded to the sender of the first letter opened. In the case of newspaper cuttings sufficient must be forwarded to identify the name of the journal and date of issue. Envelopes to be marked "Printer's Pie" in the left-hand top corner.

Over 5,000 Cash and other "Bullets" Prizes to be Won Weekly. Page 28.

THANKS FROM "BULLETS" WINNERS.

"A MAGNIFICENT NEST-EGG"—"OUTLOOK ENTIRELY CHANGED."

There can be no question that the arrival of our weekly £500 cheque in various parts of the country causes a big stir in the neighbourhood. Here are the acknowledgments of the winners of the First Prize in our 68th and 69th Competitions, respectively:—

Mr. G. F. S. Hill, of Beech Bank, Ulverston, writes:—

I have been amazed to find such universal interest in a local success as has been manifested in Ulverston.

My journey to the bank and back was indeed a memorable one. Said "journey" occupied some five hours the half-mile. I may say that, as a junior civil servant, married, and with two children, I thoroughly appreciate such a magnificent "nest-egg."

I am glad to say that this and all previous efforts have been "home-made."

I think my success should confound such sceptics as imagine that first prizes are never sent to small places or to sixpenny entrants. This place is all but "off the map," and I have habitually forwarded six-penn'orths only.

And thus from Mr. Douglas E. Kay, of 7, Willesden Avenue, Rusholme, Manchester:—

It is with deepest feelings of gratitude that I hereby acknowledge receipt of cheque for £500, as the first prize in your No. 69 "Bullets" competition.

My first intimation was on the morning of issue of JOHN BULL, when I received your congratulatory letter and cheque. Naturally I was greatly elated, and the excitement within the immediate vicinity was intense. The news quickly spread and there was a general rush for JOHN BULLS to verify my good fortune.

I am employed on the staff of a large engineering firm of this city, and my success as the first prize winner rapidly circulated and I became the recipient of hearty congratulations from all grades of workers.

As regards "Bullets," I have sent in approximately twelve times, at intervals of about one month, and I have never used more than one coupon. The consistency in the quality of the winning lines each week has always aroused my admiration, and the study of these lines has certainly proved a great help.

I take this opportunity of asserting that I consider "Bullets" to be judged in an absolutely fair and impartial manner.

You have indeed brightened up two lives (my wife's and self) and our outlook has been entirely changed.

We are pleased to say that both Mr. Hill and Mr. Kay have not been unmindful of those less fortunate than themselves, they having each subscribed £5 for distribution among our "Human Documents."

PITY THE POOR EDITOR!

GEMS FROM OUR LETTER BAG.

"Will you kindly oblige by letting me know the state of the weather from about 5 o'clock to 8 o'clock on Thursday evening, December 4th, 1913."

* * *

"I cannot get my rightfull ownership on account of boy cot and the authoritcs have got my wife under a spel of compliance to their wishes and have got her marriage certificate and trying to prove it belongs and she is afraid to confess to me on account of their threats of voilence and I wrote a letter to Scotland yard authorites and it was deliberatey taken out of my pocket during the night and I want you if possible to inquire in circumstances at once as they are threaten to kill the whole of my family and I require to know if you could let me know wheter they can hold nature up in their machinery with the intent to drive people mad and also whether they can hold my owenship from me as it runs into over a 100 million pounds."

During this week the Crosfield Operatic Society are giving performances at the Royal Court Theatre, Warrington, of Planquette's famous comic opera, "The Old Guard." The company is an excellent one, while the orchestra will have the advantage of the aid of the Crosfield Prize Band. As the proceeds will be distributed amongst local charities—for which over £500 has already been raised by the Society—patrons will harmoniously combine pleasure and charity.

INSTANT SUCCESS OF SANAGLOBIN

HOW DR. PENSCHUCK'S DISCOVERY ADDS 1 LB. A WEEK AND STRENGTHENS NERVES.

Perhaps never in the history of medicine has any success been registered so pronounced and immediate as that which centres round the now famous preparation "Sanaglobin." When one considers that it is only a short time ago since the first announcements attracted public attention, the facts seem almost incredible. Applications for this wonderful treatment for developing the nervous and physical system of thin people continue daily to pour in from all parts of the United Kingdom.

And what is more extraordinary is the large number of orders for further quantities. Hundreds of men and women who sent up for this magnificent treatment on the day of the first announcement have discovered, to their intense gratification, that Sanaglobin is a genuine preparation, which actually does develop their bodies and bring about that perfect proportion which is the ideal of every man and woman in every station of life.

FORMS NEW AND HEALTHY FLESH.

As soon as they have taken a box of this developer, they begin to feel its marvellous effect. They eat their food with greater relish; stomach pains trouble them no longer, for the goodness in every shred of the food which they take finds its way right into the system; the blood becomes revitalised, and flows with greater vigour; the oxygen which the body needs is carried in greater quantities into their blood; sleep becomes more refreshing, and they wake up in the morning with that feeling of rejuvenation which is the great delight of the physically and mentally healthy man and woman.

They find their muscles increase in size and power, because greater life is given to the blood by the wonderful properties of "Sanaglobin" Solid flesh begins to form round the previously prominent bones, and, in the case particularly of ladies, shoulders fill out in the splendid proportions desired; the distressing "saucers" round the neck, which are such a powerful factor in marring the beauty of any woman, utterly disappear.

THIN AND NERVOUS.

Dogged is he thin and nervous, Dr. Penschuck has made a great discovery. "SANAGLOBIN" enables the thin and nervous to add as much as 3lb. a week of firm, smooth, natural flesh, and at the same time calm and strengthen the nerves.

With more flesh the haggard drawn look disappears and the figure develops along the desired lines. The personal energy and vigour increases. The spirits brighten, and general health and physical appearance improve.

REASONS FOR LOW PRICE.

The proprietors of Sanaglobin know that their preparation was destined to be a wonderful success, otherwise they would not have fixed the price, 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d. The lowness of price is also the reason that there are no free samples of Sanaglobin.

No small SAMPLE can be a fair test; besides, a gigantic national sampling scheme costs a great deal of money, the whole of which has to be paid by those who afterwards buy. The proprietors of Sanaglobin prefer to forego the sampling scheme, and keep the price low.

Write for copy of an interesting **FREE BOOK**—"The Causes and Cure of Thinness," published by The Sanaglobin Co., Ltd., Dept. 33, 115, Clerkenwell Road, London, E.C.

Sanaglobin Tablets are obtained at 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d. from all branches of Boots Cash Chemists; Hedges, Birmingham; Hodder & Co., Bristol; Taylor's Drug Co. Ltd.; Timothy White Co., Ltd.; Selfridge's; and most high-class Chemists and Stores, or direct post paid from the above address.

HOW TO GET RID OF CATARRH.

A Simple, Safe, Reliable Way, and it Costs Nothing to Try.

Those who suffer from catarrh know its miseries. There is no need of this suffering. You can get rid of it by a simple, safe, inexpensive, home treatment discovered by Dr. Blosser, who for over thirty-six years has been treating catarrh successfully.

His treatment is unlike any other. It is not a spray, douche, salve, cream, or inhaler, but is a more direct and thorough treatment than any of these. It cleans out the head, nose, throat, and lungs so that you can again breathe freely and sleep without that stopped-up feeling that all catarrh sufferers have. It heals the diseased mucous membranes and arrests the foul discharge, so that you will not be constantly blowing your nose and spitting, and at the same time it does not poison the system and ruin the stomach, as internal medicines do.

If you want to test this treatment without cost, send your address to Dr. Blosser, Ltd. (Depot 21B.), 8, Bouverie Street, London, E.C., who will send you by return post, enough of the medicine to satisfy you that it is all they claim for it as a remedy for catarrh, catarrhal headaches, catarrhal deafness, asthma, bronchitis, colds and all catarrhal complications. They will also send you free an illustrated booklet. Write them immediately.

On sale at Boots' Cash Chemists and other chemist's shops.

NEW SINGLE WEEK CONTEST. NO WAITING!

Fifteen Hundred Pounds!

£1,500

£500 IF ONE ERROR ONLY

ONE WEEK ONLY NO WAITING!

£150 FOR NEXT BEST FORECAST

£50 FOR MAUVE COUPON

New Football Contest with more Mammoth Cash Prizes! There is no waiting; it is for **ONE WEEK ONLY**, so on no account miss using the coupon on page 2 of our cover of this issue. The matches selected are played on Saturday, March 7th, the closing date being Friday, March 6th. Consequently there is no time to waste; fill in your forecasts **now**. There is nothing to pay, and you can send as many entries as you like. Scottish readers may now enter.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO

is to forecast the results of the League games and Cup-Ties to be played on Saturday, March 7th, given on the entrance form on page 2 of our cover. **Before making your forecasts read carefully the new method of marking your forecasts as explained on the coupon.**

£1,500 FOR AN ALL-CORRECT COUPON.

The huge sum of **£1,500** will be paid to the competitor sending us an entrance form containing correct forecasts of all the matches given which are played to a finish. If, owing to bad weather or other causes, a match is not completed, it will be disregarded. Thus, **ABANDONED MATCHES MAKE NO DIFFERENCE.**

Should it happen that no Entrance Form be received giving the whole of the correct results, **£500** will be paid to the competitor whose coupon shows one error only. In the unlikely event of neither the £1,500 nor the **£500** being won, we shall in any event pay the cash prize of **£150** to the sender of the most correct forecasts, whatever the number—even if only 8 or 10. In addition we shall pay a cash prize of **£50** for the most correct forecast sent on a Mauve Coupon taken from MARY BULL. This is a distinct and additional prize—a Mauve Coupon signed by a lady, means the sender has the opportunity of winning not only the **£1,500, £500,** or **£150,** but also an extra **£50.**

The competition is one of pure skill, and a test of knowledge of form. Competitors should make a point of studying the Football columns of the newspapers.

Our elaborate checking arrangements and our new method of marking the coupon safeguard the interests of our competitors in every way and render even an attempt at fraud impossible. The risk of a coupon being overlooked is totally eliminated.

Our Football Competition department is now under the personal supervision of "MeW." the well-known football writer, late of the "Morning Leader" and "Daily Chronicle."

The RULES and

COUPON

will be found

on

PAGE 2 of COVER.

£50 "MAUVE" COUPON PRIZE.

Once again we offer a special £50 prize for the best forecast on a "mauve" coupon taken from "Mary Bull." Thus by using a "Mauve" Coupon competitors have the opportunity of winning not only the £1,500, or the £500 or £150, but also an additional £50. Being a single-week contest, there is one mauve coupon only—in this week's "Mary Bull," on sale Friday, February 27th.

SCOTTISH READERS MAY ENTER.

We are now able to accept entries from readers resident in Scotland, so specially invite our Scottish readers to participate in this contest.

Address, JOHN BULL, 25, Floral Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C. Mark envelope, "Football Contest No. 13." Closing date, Friday, March 6th.

After you have filled up your entries for this competition, turn to page 25, where you will find particulars of "Bullets," a simple and attractive Competition which you should not fail to enter. Over 3,020 Prizes are to be won this week. A first prize of £500 in cash is offered for the Best "Bullet" received, together with 3,072 other cash prizes.

Further List of "BULLETS" Prizewinners.

FOR NAMES OF FIRST THREE PRIZEWINNERS SEE P. 28.

20 PRIZES OF £2 10s.

Mr. ERNEST REID, c.c., Mrs. Templeton, 272, North Woodside Road, Glasgow:
AGE IS SIN—MONDAY'S FISH GENERALLY.

Mr. R. B. [illegible], 12, St. James Rd., Exeter:
[illegible] "ANOTHER" DESTROYER "LAUNCHED.

Mr. H. [illegible], 18, Akroyd Terrace, Halifax:
[illegible] LADIES—ENDING WITHOUT THINKING.

Mr. G. F. [illegible] HEAD, Alresford, Hants:
NEW FAIRY ADMIRATION MILLINER SHOWS.

Mr. W. H. [illegible], "St. Quithoc," Locking Road, Weston-[illegible]:
[illegible]—PARROT'S "DON'T, SIR!"

Mrs. A. E. P. T. IRWIN, The Old Rectory, West-Walton—[illegible], Wisbech, Cambs.:
[illegible]'S BABY—HOUSE AGENT'S ENEMY.

Mr. C. [illegible] H. LIVE, 40, Buccleuch Street, Edinburgh, N.B.:
[illegible]—SCULPTOR SPOILS STATUES.

Mr. W. [illegible], Frederick Street, Edinburgh:
[illegible]—TUITATION TILL TUNNEL.

Mr. W. DALTON, 37, The Brent, Dartford:
[illegible] TRUNCHEON—COOK BETRAYED.

Mr. A. [illegible], 44, Clive Road, Merton, Surrey:
[illegible]—NIGGER BIGGER.

Mr. JOHN HILL, "Craigiele," Connaught Av., Kidderminster:
[illegible]—NAVVY'S PIPE—DOSE.

Mrs. [illegible] GOLDSWORTHY, Clifton House, King Street, [illegible], Brock:
[illegible]'S BABY—"OUT" FIRST "BAWL."

Mr. [illegible] SMITH, JUNR., 36, Lawrence Road, Liverpool:
[illegible]—BIBBY-SINGER'S EYESIGHT.

Mr. I. MARKOWA, Yorke House, West Side, Wandsworth Common, S.W.:
[illegible]—EVENING CONTINUATION "CLASSES."

Mr. W. H. BIRKS, Pen Lennais Rd., Poulton, Wallasey:
[illegible] HOUSE—IDLER BECOMES "INVENTOR."

Mr. A. J. SHEARNELL, 27, Wavertree Rd., Streatham Hill, S.W.
THE OFFICIAL CLASSES—ARE PEN SHUNNERS.

Mr. T. W. GOODING, Cranmore, Capel Rd., E. Barnet, Herts:
[illegible]—SHAREHOLDERS AT "NOTHING."

Mr. A. E. COWSLEY, 117, Rockingham Road, Kettering:
NAVY CUT—ABANDONING GIBRALTAR NEXT.

Mr. FRANK COLEMAN, Eastnor, Coester Rd., Bournemouth:
WRITING HOUSE—CANNON FOR CANNON.

Mr. THOS. SALT, 64, St. James's Road, Derby:
PUT OFF—FAILURE BY PLUCK.

Reduced facsimile of the

£500 "BULLETS" CHEQUE

Paid to Last Week's FIRST PRIZE WINNER.

The original of the above cheque will be on view at the premises of Miss A. Pringle, Newsagent, High Street, Inverkeithing until March 4th.

Selection from 50 Prizewinners of £1 each.

Abery, E. A., Chadstone, Limbury-rd, Leagrave, Luton.
Baden, W. G., c.o. Car and Wagon Dept. Offices, G.W.R. Works (Wagon), Swindon, Wilts.
Bath, G., 101, Manor-grove, Richmond, Surrey.
Bell, R. W., 77, Woodland-rd., Bristol.
Bellamy, W. G., 57, Lichfield-rd., Southtown, Gt. Yarmouth.
Bray, Rev. L., 7, Buckingham-rd., Shoreham-by-Sea.
Brown, M. E., 28, Manor-st., Hooley Hill, Mc.
Butler, G., 1, North Erskine Park, Bearsden, N.B.
Byerlee, Mrs. Bramber, Hansol-rd., Bexley Heath, Kent.
Caddington, Capt. T., R.H.A., 1, Gun Hill, Aldershot, Hants.
Carr, J. W., 89, Netherg ate, Dundee.
Chisholm, Mrs. N., Police Station, Birmingham-rd., Cowes, I.O.W.
Christian, Ashleen, 15, Fulshaw-ave., Wilmslow, Mc.
Clubb, A. W., 111, Old Heath-rd., Colchester, Essex.
Collins, C., Southampton Hill, Titchfield, nr. Fareham, Hants.
Connacher, Mrs. M., 68, Fort-st., Broughty Ferry, Dundee.
Cooper, Mrs. D., 46, Aylesbury-rd., Buckland, Portsmouth.
Corden, E., High-st., Hucknall, Notts.
Coult, Mrs. E. R., 45, Romford-rd., Stratford, E.
Erridge, F. A., Coast Guard Station, Sea Palling, Norwich.
Fletcher, M., Sister, Nurses Home, P.I. Infirmary, Portsmouth.
France, H., Coastguard Station, Kessingland, Lowestoft, Suffolk.
Goodman, W. A. E., No. 5, F. Block, St. Mary's Barracks, Chatham, Kent.
Green, H., C. Dept., c.o. J. and R. Morley, 18, Wood-st., E.C.
Grimley, H. N., Norton, Bury-St.-Edmunds.
Howell, Mrs. I., 20, Hynone-st., Swansea, Glam.
Hutton, H. P., General Post Office, E.C.
Kay, P., 83, Station-rd., Woodhouse, Sheffield.
Lovelace, A., Railway Station, Sunbury, Middlesex.
Lovell, Cpl. F. H., 1st Royal Berks. Regt., Aldershot.
Ludlow, Col. F., War Office, York.
Maddison, Pte. R., No. 4 Coy., 3rd Coldstream Guards, Chelsea, S.W.
Mellor, B., Foreman, Medd Dairy Farm, Loughboro-rd., W. Bridgford, Notts.

"JOHN BULL" £50,000 DERBY SWEEP. Will readers please bear in mind that we cannot either supply or reply to applications for books of tickets for this sweepstake; nor can we act as agents for receiving and forwarding money for tickets. All communications *must* be addressed direct to Messrs. Smallman and Terry, Geneva, Switzerland.

Complete List of all "Bullets" Prizewinners can be seen at these offices.

"John Bull's" Letter Bag.

The EDITOR replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when forwarding cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS and drawings for consideration must write name and address upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IS ATTACHED TO THE MANUSCRIPT.

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be forwarded in the first instance.*

Legal Inquiries must be addressed to the Legal Editor, 98, Long Acre, W.C., and must be accompanied by a Postal Order for a Shilling.

GENERAL.

J. S. B. (Manchester).—How much cheaper than a King do you calculate a Republican President would be? And don't you think there is some advantage in stability of rule?

Miss M. F. (Hull).—We are almost tempted to ask for your photo.

S. A. R. R.—We do not find anyone of your initials in the Bar List. Who, and what, are you?

A. P. (Huddersfield).—We have taken note of Sir William Butler's lament that "The Liberal Party in office has not half as much courage as its conscience when out of it." But does not the same criticism apply to both parties?

"Sportsman" (Belfast).—Send us your name and address, and we will let you know how we are dealing with the matter.

"In Doubt" (Liverpool).—If you purchase the machine in question, you should have the written guarantee of the firm to take your work—though even then, as they constitute themselves the sole judges of its quality, you are liable to have it rejected, and therefore to find that you have spent your money and time for nothing.

J. M. (Dublin).—You are all wrong in your facts. Speaking generally, the Unionist Party are opposed to all anti-gambling and other faddist legislation.

"Weardale Reader" tells us that the other Sunday the Rev. G. K. Grice, Jnr., Minister of the Circuit, took for his text "Bring all your thoughts in captivity unto God," and made it the medium of a violent attack on John Bull, advising his congregation to avoid us at peril of their souls' salvation. That probably accounts for our local sales having gone up a bit.

A. P. E. (Belfast).—Go on looking a little longer.

"Vincent" (Colchester).—Our Publisher has written you, but the letter has been returned. Kindly send full address, and he will communicate again.

G. M. B. (Wootton Bassett).—Afraid you must be a very recent reader, for over six months ago we exposed the trick of Samuel Lewis & Co., of 58, High Holborn, who take money for silk and do not send the goods, or send them under threat of prosecution, after the delay of many months. The 6s. you paid them in December would more than have covered a year's subscription to this journal.

S. W. (Devonport) complains that, although it was announced in *Ally Sloper's Half Holiday* of November 29th that he was a winner of a fountain pen, he has not received it, nor can he get a reply to his letters. We are afraid poor old *Sloper* is nodding, as S. W.'s complaint is by no means the only one we have received with reference to its delay in sending small prizes.

N. B. (Port Talbot).—We recommend you to consult a surgeon regarding the best treatment for curing knockknees. As you do not forward your full name and address, we cannot return your postal order, so have added the shilling to our "Human Document" Fund.

P. F. (Wigan).—The story you send us was originally told about 54 B.C.

W. S. (Norwich).—"Can a man receive 14 days' hard labour for resting his poor body in a straw stack?" He can, and often does. As a fact, we have known him receive more for resting his poor body on the field daisies and dandelions.

"Nemo" (Leicester).—We regret to say we know of no charity or trust that would fit your case. Could not some of your late husband's professional friends advise you?

J. D. E. (Bristol).—Being a postman, you should have some consideration for our eyesight, and not send us a blotted and confused letter which we cannot decipher. What is it all about?

J. E. (Edinburgh).—Glad you were pleased with our Christmas Number. So were we.

E. W. B. (Leicester).—Factory Inspectorships can be obtained only by nomination, followed by competitive examination. We rather think 33 is too old for you to sit. Before having any dealings with "The Sanitary Training College," of 150, Holborn, it would be wise for you to communicate with the Hon. Secretary of the Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Board, 1, Adelaide Buildings, London Bridge, E.C. We are not sure that the Board recognise the certificate of this "College."

F. J. M. (Northampton).—You will be pleased if we can inform you whether the "Diabetol Herb," advertised by the Arbos Chemical Company, 8, Bouverie Street, London, E.C., is a genuine thing or only a catchpenny affair." When we get to know we will tell you.

"Union" (Torquay).—Let us know what you're driving at and we'll tell you where to go to.

W. A. R. (Christchurch).—To get money returned from steamship companies is like getting butter out of a dog's throat. Write the Company again, threatening them with legal proceedings, and if they still maintain their lordly indifference to your claim, put the matter in the hands of a solicitor—but make a bargain with him about costs.

A. F. (Oxford).—Sorry, but cannot now reply by post. If you have any talent for drawing, get it developed at a School of Art or by a private master locally.

"Another Democrat" (Southfields).—As requested, you "may be permitted to hazard the opinion that superior muscles, judgment, and temper are possible when assisted by facilities for the cultivation of these attainments"; also that our opinion that "blood counts" ought to be altered to "money counts." Feel happier now?

E. B. (King's Lynn).—Your postcard: "Dear Sir,—What a damnation scandal to all." What's the matter now?

J. B. L. (London, W.).—"Leaving out the future fate of the heathen," you believe, after residence in Ceylon, that "foreign missions are good, as a religion of fear, *i.e.*, propitiating devils is not good enough for anyone, and that blacks as well as whites need to know God as their Heavenly Father." Good!

B. O. S. (Nottingham).—You ask us "not to run away with the idea that the life of the pit pony is always a life of misery, being far from it." We won't run.

D. B. (Forest Gate, E.).—Thanks for your appreciation. As for your inappreciation of the ordinary "mealy-mouthed weeklies" you are certainly very strong in the arm!

M. H. (Bacup).—The hostile attitude of the Rawtenstall magistrates towards the application of the Irwell Springs Band to give a Sunday concert for their own benefit is hereby noted. It is not, however, a matter we can make a song about.

F. B. (Littlehampton).—Evidently Littlehampton is managed by some funny little people. The population had better buy in garden squirts in anticipation of the next fire.

W. C. S. (Kingston Hill, S.W.).—Washing silk at 4d. a yard is too good to be true, unless it be the proceeds of a robbery. If you had given the back-door tout who called on you an order, he would have taken the money, but we doubt whether you would ever have seen the goods.

"Englandria" (Halifax, Can.).—"English men or women are not wanted in Canada unless they choose to be menials or serfs and work for next to nothing. . . Servant girls should shun Halifax like the plague, as they are treated worse than slaves." We know all about it.

Mrs. F. (Slough).—Sorry we cannot "induce the Duke of Sutherland to relieve his conscience by returning some of the land his ancestors grabbed." The poor man isn't responsible for his ancestors; and if we all started returning things our ancestors had grabbed, what a horrible crush there would be at the Treasury!

J. M. W. (Bridlington).—If you can translate the rumours about the vicar in question into evidence of facts, we are quite willing to consider them.

E. C. (Thornton Heath).—The action of Chief-Inspector MacKay in pleading to the magistrates on behalf of a man charged with begging, on account of the hard times through which he had passed, was deserving of all praise.

J. R. D. (Belfast).—"Sir Edward Carson had a farce on, Which made old Birrell grin——" If you send us any more alleged poetry we shall address you in severe accents.

"James" (Toronto).—We have taken note of the fact that artizans and labourers will not be admitted as emigrants into British Columbia until April 1st. That is All Fools' Day you know.

More Winners of Cash for Football Skill. See page 5.

W. H. (Llandaff).—If the story of the man was true, that he "went out to pick a bit of coal" because he was out of work and his children were crying with the cold, the fine of 15s., or three weeks in gaol, was harsh in the extreme.

F. O. F. (Westbury).—Yes, we noticed that the Southwark Board of Guardians had taken delivery of a supply of men's overcoats at the contract price of 1s. 3d. each, though it was a clerical error of the contractors. The Guardians were quite right in not permitting amendment.

M. R. C. S. (York) and OTHERS.—We do not attach any importance to the opinions of the York pastor you name on the subject of theatrical and music-hall performances. He impresses us merely as a notoriety-hunting pulpiteer.

J. S. (Dingle).—Have nothing to do with "Dr. Percival's New Vita Eye Masseur."

J. W. (Plympton).—Judging Messrs. Jacob & Co., Biscuit Manufacturers, Dublin, by the pamphlet "Welfare and Industry," which you send us, we agree that Larkin's attacks upon them are ranting lies.

J. P. W. (Liverpool).—Yours on "The Sanctity of the Nude" to hand. What's your opinion about the sanctimoniousness of the rude?

J. W. A. (Coventry).—So so; but what on earth has the porkpie person and the name in which he trades to do with us? We don't care a button even if he calls himself Crusty.

W. S. (Norwich).—Apropos of a newspaper illustration of a woman who found a diamond in a bloater, we have your poem thus commencing: "If you're going up to town just to sparkle on your own, With a gee-gee or a motor in the Row, To a fish shop you must glide, For a bloater whose inside, Will produce a jewel fit for any show In its roe, What a go! It's a tip I really think you ought to know." Come and be smacked on the hand.

S. N. (Brighton).—Our remarks about the Talbot Road Church draw, Blackpool, were based on the complaint of a correspondent and on the tickets issued, which were clearly calculated to deceive; we cannot say whether or not the actual intention was altered by our exposure. The organisers themselves must shoulder the responsibility for our strictures.

T. B. (Falmouth).—The jeweller, "a large freeholder," who "for the last twenty years has sent across the street to a firm of newsagents to borrow a local paper, which he keeps for an hour and then sends his assistant back with it," is rather worse than the man who every time it came on to rain took shelter in an umbrella shop.

W. H. (Canwell, W.).—"Being a regular reader of your paper, John Bull, and knowing that you like spicy pieces, I am taking the liberty to write and ask you if you know of any scandal as Messrs. Cowan and Sons, Tea Dealers, 3a, Tiverton Mansions, 140, Grey's Inn Road." If this is your idea of a "spicy piece," it isn't ours. However, we know the gentleman in question, and we advise you to keep your money and let them keep their tea.

C. P. T. (Addiscombe).—An agreement between house agents and tradesmen, by which the latter are supplied with the names of incoming tenants before they enter new premises so that the tradesmen may canvass their custom, is quite legal.

L. T. (Stratford), just returned from sea, complains about being robbed right and left by the Captain withholding his pay and making him deal with "bumboat" people at the different ports of call. It is an old grievance, with which we have dealt pretty fully.

"BANK CLERK" (Chard).—We have heard the statement made, but cannot vouch for it, that clerks in foreign banks are paid rather worse than those in British ones.

J. C. (Cyprus) says: "When you get your Business Government you might advocate railways for Cyprus." We might. One never knows.

E. G. (Herne Bay) is now informed by "W. D." (Edin.) that the height of the Russian giant Machnow, if still living, is 9 ft. 5 ins. in his socks, and his weight 32 st. Must be pretty cold up there!

L. M. G. (Paddington, W.).—Why are you so anxious to know where the Japanese milk factory is being built? We must know your purpose before giving away such a valuable piece of information. You might be a suffragette bent on destruction, for all we know.

D. W. (Canwell).—Time after time we have stated that Sunday is not the Sabbath. This is not our opinion; it is a fact. The Seventh Day Adventists believe in other things beside the Saturday Sabbath.

C. B. (Barnley).—Your appreciation is appreciated, but if we hinted that margarine wasn't as nice and wholesome as butter, we should have all the margarine merchants down on us again. The last time we did it they all sat on us at once.

"BON MARCHE" (Sheerness).—Don't waste money on the eyesight "specialist" you mention.

R. C. P. (Halifax) writes: "Can you give me the best authority on Roman road formation when in Britain?" Cæsar.

A. T. (Boscombe).—Thanks, but we don't reprint verses.

G. R. (Barry Dock).—Can you produce proofs of the charges you make in your letter? If so, let's have them. Your accusations are too grave to be dealt with without the strongest confirmation.

M. H. (Halifax).—We shall not recommend you a Literary Agency, because they are of no use except to established authors who haven't the time to attend to their business themselves.

J. W. C. (Barnsbury).—"I beg to call your attention as to the manner in which I have been treated by the Liverpool Victoria Approved Society and the National Insurance Health Commissioners." We beg to call your attention to the manner in which everybody has been treated by all the Approved Societies and the National Insurance Health Commissioners.

"FAIRPLAY" (Stepney Green).—We will inform our contributor of your solemn assertion that "it is a well-known fact outside lunatic asylums that pig keeping has been for the last few years the biggest asset the farmer has had." Also that his statement about Hodge getting only 12s. a week during harvest is "a damnable lie."

S. R. (Chorleywood) need not be ashamed of his muse:—

When Moses brought the Decalogue
Down Sinai, 'graved on stones,
He heard a Voice call through the fog
In mandatory tones.
"There's one exception, by the way;
Be sure you don't forget,
The Ten Commandments don't apply
If you're a Suffragette."

We have seen worse lines on tradesmen's bags—and, in at least one instance, quite as irreverent.

A. T. P. (Lexden).—We are afraid we cannot help you to get your money back from the elusive Churchill, whose nefarious practices we exposed in our issue of December 27th last—more especially since the police inform you that they can do nothing for you. Let purchasers of dressmakers' models beware accordingly.

T. E. (Hampstead).—Whether the sale for 30s. of an article which cost 20s. represents a profit of 33⅓ per cent. on the turnover, or of 50 per cent. on the deal, matters very little. It is a very good profit anyway.

"MODERATION" (Ipswich) says he considers it a *Sin* (in red ink) "for a man and woman to bring into the world these little bits of innocent humanity to what they *know* must be a life of poverty and semi-starvation. I consider them *Beasts*." No, not beasts, but thoughtless idiots. Let us have moderation, at all costs.

J. H. C. (Alderney) is hereby informed that the Secretary of the London Branch of the Dental Mechanics' and Assistants' Association is Mr. S. Gay, 85, Grosvenor Road, Forest Gate, E.

"CORNFLOWER" (Cardiff) is anxious to know what precisely is the relationship between the wives of two brothers. Some say they are sisters-in-law, others say they are unrelated. Our own opinion is that their relationship is usually strained.

"ALEXIS" (Sydenham).—The question of registry offices for servants is as old as Adam, there or thereabouts. Many of them are gross swindles, but then everybody knows it. As a rule, people who are supplied with servants through them do not begrudge the fees; the swindling comes in in taking money for services which the agencies do not, or cannot, perform.

"AJAX" (Edinburgh).—The device of the Egina Tea Stores, 27, Tarvit Street, Edinburgh, is the rotation bonus scheme, now very popular with tea-trade tricksters. You would probably not have received a bonus by the Resurrection, so leave the concern severely alone.

E. L. A. (Glasgow).—Sorry that "out of the abundance of our wisdom and experience" we cannot inform you why you are judged by the Board of Education to be insufficiently qualified as a teacher without knowing more of you than we gather from your letter; but, of course, you are aware that the tendency is gradually to scrap all teachers who are not college trained?

E. W. (West Hartlepool).—"Enclosed" received and considered. Thanks for your hope to see us "M.P. before long."

"DISGUSTED" (Ware).—We suppose all our readers are by this time warned never again to send Christmas turkeys through the post with tie-on labels. Some of our own loveliest birds escaped in this way—unless the Postmaster-General ate the lot.

"CONSTANT READER" (Croydon).—Yours is a case for a solicitor. We do not recommend employment agencies.

£1,500 for a Football Forecast. New ONE-WEEK Contest. See Page 31.

LEGAL.

H. W. (New Moston).—You are entitled to six months' notice, and such notice must expire on the same quarter-day or other period of the year as the tenancy commenced. If you are wrongfully ejected you can bring an action for damages, and you can claim compensation for what you have already sown or planted. You should instruct a solicitor to act for you.

"Perplexed" (Leeds).—An undischarged bankrupt is liable to pay income tax on his earnings since the bankruptcy.

"Troubled" (Hanley).—If the two creditors are pressing you, petition for a Receiving Order. This will protect your estate, and may induce all your creditors to accept a composition.

"Not Suited" (Shirley).—If the suit sent to you, and for which you have paid, does not correspond with your measurements, send it back to the makers at their expense, and demand the return of your money or of a suit that suits. If you get neither, sue them—*i.e.*, give *them* a suit.

A. B. (Kennington).—Your employers were bound to give you notice before reducing your wages. Do we think 10s. a week at a pickle factory a living wage? It might be if you could live on pickles.

"Victim" (Sheffield).—We agree that the agreement imposed on the vanmen is unfair and unreasonable, to say the least, and in parts, at any rate, there is a question whether it can be enforced.

Bob G. (Bruce Grove).—The agreement could be terminated by a week's notice on either side. The tenant is liable for the rates. If they are 4s. 9d. in the £, they would come to £3 11s. 3d. for the year.

"Anon." (Glam.).—You cannot claim any damages. A landlord can distrain for arrears of rent without giving any notice.

FINANCIAL AND INSURANCE.

A Postal Order for 1s. must accompany each Financial or Insurance Inquiry.

Birkbeck Bank.—"Leytonstone."—You will notice that the suggested final dividend of 6d. per share is only an estimate, and Sir Wm. Plender is in a better position to judge than anyone else. The case with regard to the B shareholders is an extremely difficult one, and that is the only reason for the delay in issuing judgment.

"Christian Globe."—R. W. W. (Shrewsbury).—We can quite understand your disappointment, but are afraid you are helpless in the matter. It is unusual to give such details as you ask for, but if you are in town and call at the office, no doubt you would get the explanations you require. We must say, however, that on the face of the accounts there is no evidence of the extravagance you suspect. The really disappointing thing is the extremely poor circulation, but it costs money to push that, and the company evidently has none to spare.

United Investors, Ltd., Winnipeg.—G. M. (Portobello).—Have nothing to do with it or you will certainly lose your money.

Motor Petrol Association.—"North Pole."—Not a desirable investment, in spite of all the fine names on the Advisory Board. We are not certain whether any petrol has yet been delivered to members; possibly it has, but we should doubt whether deliveries are regular and whether there is any profit on them.

Nakahun Asphalt and Oil Company.—J. J. (Northants).—We advise you to pay no more to the Canadian Industrial Development Company for this rubbish. If they attempt to intimidate you, consult a smart solicitor.

Manila Railway Pref.—"Spero" (Ramsgate).—It is not exactly a "safe investment," but the company has been doing better, and there is a fair chance of an improvement in the price.

Prudential Assurance Company.—"Miserable."—If the daughter had reached the age of 21 years at the time the will was made, it would hold good in law. You could, however, claim a return of the premiums actually paid by you, on the ground that you have contributed to a policy which gives you no legal consideration. We think, in all the circumstances, that you should mention your case to the Local Superintendent.

City Life Assurance Company.—"Woodman."—The cost of establishing an Industrial Branch has temporarily interfered with the payment of the recently declared bonus in cash. We anticipate, however, that expenses will now steadily decrease, and that the next quinquennium will find the Company in a position more in accord with the prosperity it has enjoyed in the past. Meanwhile, the Bonus accretion is placed to the credit of the policy in the event of a claim arising before the expiry of the present quinquennium.

National Benefit Life and Property Assurance.—J. B. P. T. (Port Talbot).—The company is reliable, and, provided your inquiry has reference to Whole Life or Endowment Assurance, we see no objection to your applying for the policy. We do not, however, recommend their House Purchase Certificates.

Land Purchase.—M. T. (Leominster).—We think you would find it necessary to call in the aid of a local society. Any local solicitor might be able to assist you. If the proposal would suit the National Freehold Land and Building Society, Moorgate Street, London, E.C., you would be quite safe in dealing with them.

Provident Association of London.—J. J. B. (Weston-super-Mare).—The loss inflicted upon the holders of Surrender Bonds is scandalous, and we can find no justification for the confiscation of so large a proportion of the subscriptions paid. You have contributed £90 and are offered £30, which, as we properly point out means a loss of £60 to you. Had you placed your savings in the Post Office Savings' Bank, your capital with interest would have remained intact, and we are not, therefore, surprised that you should describe the forfeiture of so large a sum of money in very *strong* language. You are, however, helpless in the matter and must accept what the Association choose to give, being bound by the Conditions endorsed on the Bond, notwithstanding their inequitable and one-sided character. The numerous complaints we have received show that there is a general and deep-rooted dissatisfaction with this class of so-called Bond Investment.

SPORTING.

Sporting inquiries must be addressed to the Sporting Editor, 52, New Broad Street, E.C.

John Bull Derby Sweep.—"Satisfied" (Nelson).—We are glad to receive your letter in reference to Messrs. Smallman and Terry. We note with satisfaction that you are "thoroughly satisfied as to their straightforwardness," and that you have done business with them for a long period and "in every case been treated with the greatest respect and attention."

Sporting Sweepstakes.—H. S. (Warrington).—Messrs. Smallman and Terry, of Geneva, Switzerland, are responsible for the John Bull Derby Sweepstake; Mr. Patrick O'Brien, of Lucerne, for the Grand National; whilst the Turf Syndicate, of Geneva, are promoting a "Sweep" on the Lincoln. In each case our Editor will be present at the draw. You can obtain full particulars on application to the above-mentioned firms.

Gale's Special.—W. C. (Porthcawl).—Perfectly genuine.

Newmarket Turf Club Syndicate (Geneva).—"Barno and Others.—We do not recommend.

H. Diamond. (Lucerne).—T. W. (Dublin).—Quite straightforward.

The Totalisator (Lucerne).—E.C. (Colchester).—Quite genuine.

Waterloo Cup Sweepstake.—C. N. S. (East Greenwich).—If you will let us know your name, we will reply to your inquiry.

"People's Sport" (Arlesheim).—C. J. (Durham).—We note your experience, but are not surprised. We have frequently warned our readers against these people.

Continental Sweep.—"Sport."—Both Smallman and Terry, of Geneva, and Patrick O'Brien, of Lucerne, are reliable firms.

"London Mail" Derby Sweep.—S. G. (Gloucester).—We understand that permission has been given to Mr. Wyndham (Universal Turf Society), Weggis, Switzerland, to use the name of the paper. Of course, it will be a genuine affair.

Patrick O'Brien's Grand National Sweep.—A. F. (Streatham, S.W.).—The Banker's receipt for the £10,000 prize-money is perfectly genuine. The Draw takes place on March 19th, under the personal supervision of the Editor of this journal, but for replies upon the other points you raise we must refer you direct to Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Lucerne, Switzerland. We have returned your cheque, as we cannot, in the circumstances, act as agents for the supply of tickets.

M. J. S. (Bristol).—We understand that Mr. O'Brien is not this year running a Derby Sweep, but is advising all his clients to support that being promoted by Messrs. Smallman and Terry, of Geneva, Switzerland, under the title of the John Bull Derby Sweep, and to whom we must refer you for particulars.

Derby Sweepstakes.—"Bullite."—The largest of which we know is the John Bull Derby Sweep, with guaranteed prizes of £50,000, under the management of Messrs. Smallman and Terry, of Geneva, Switzerland, and next in order of importance comes the £35,000 Sweep of the Turf Syndicate, whose offices are also at Geneva.

Grand National Sweeps.—S. McD. (Manchester).—The only firms running Sweeps on the Grand National of whom we have personal knowledge are (1) Patrick O'Brien, Lucerne; (2) H. Diamond, Lucerne; and (3) The Totalisator, also of Lucerne, Switzerland.

"Syster" (Edinburgh).—We quite agree that placing the first three horses in the Lincoln and Grand National is much more of a wild and reckless gamble than foretelling the result of twenty football matches.

"Bullets" the Best Judged Competition—With most Prizes.

CITY NOTES.

(For Financial and Insurance Letter-Box, see Letter Bag pages.)

The Stock Markets.

Markets have been about as bleak as the recent weather. It is no use blinking the fact that dealings have dried up to a sad extent and the average broker finds the conditions quite as bad as they were left before the January boom. Probably the rush of new issues is mainly responsible for this state of affairs; about £60,000,000 has been offered since the beginning of the year, and this has absorbed the bulk of the surplus capital available for investment. The whole thing has been sadly overdone, and issuing houses would be wise to pass a self-denying ordinance until conditions improve. It is true that the Hungarian loan was eagerly subscribed last week, because it was a very tempting investment for big financiers, but less than 50 per cent. of the Union of South Africa issue was taken up by the public, and only 5 to 8 per cent. of the Mogyana and Pretoria loans. However, while Home Railways yield 5 to 5½ per cent. investors have no cause to grumble about lack of opportunity to secure good bargains. The dividend list was completed by the Great Western and South Western declarations, both of which were fully up to expectations, and the results as a whole have been most satisfactory. But such is the contrariness of markets that prices have been slipping back ever since. Rubbers, too, have been steadily on the down-grade owing to the reaction in the price of the raw material. It was worked up to 2s. 9d., and has slumped to 2s. 5d. We are glad to see, however, that the Growers' Association has abandoned the wild-cat scheme of forming a Central Selling Agency to attempt the impossible task of "regulating" prices. Oils have been stagnant and dull, public interest being very limited. Among mines, the Barrier group have been fairly well supported, and Russian Mining has fluctuated wildly, but the "Wonder Zoo" is very dangerous for outsiders to touch.

Associated County Halls and Theatres.

The first report and accounts of this venture, for the period from August 2nd, 1911, to December 31st, 1912, were submitted only last November, having taken ten months to prepare. And a sorry spectacle they presented, the net result being a loss for the period in question of £2,150. The next meeting is due shortly, and it would be well if the independent shareholders made an effort to organise themselves in advance with a view to obtaining the appointment of a committee to thoroughly investigate the affairs of the company. This is the more urgent as £5,600 First Mort. Debentures have been created, and the holders might be in the position at any moment of appointing a receiver and securing the control of the business, on which some £75,000 has been spent. Whether anything can be done to save much from the wreck is doubtful, but it is worth an effort, and the shareholders will not be able to protect their interests unless they do some spade work before the meeting comes on.

"Your Obedient Servant"

A new note has been introduced into the method of making loan issues, and we welcome it. The application forms for the Royal Hungarian Government Loan, addressed to Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons, demand that the applicant for an allotment should describe himself as their "obedient servant." We wonder what would happen if he were to insert the words 'Grateful for small mercies"!

Consolidated Oilfields of South Africa.

As we go to press it is announced from Johannesburg that Mr. Cunningham Craig's report on the oil indications of South Africa has, at last, been issued. We have not seen the full report—in fact it has not yet been published here—but we have seen an extract therefrom containing his views on the Ceres district. These are extremely interesting, in the light of knowledge since obtained from the bore-hole being sunk by the Consolidated Oil Fields of South Africa, and we hope to refer to the matter at greater length next week. In the meantime we adhere to all we have said concerning the potentialities of this enterprise.

Peripatetic Mines.

Most mines may be confidently relied upon to remain where they are discovered, even if they are not all bonanzas. But occasionally directors find peripatetic mines which, according to the dictionary definition are "accustomed or obliged to walk" up and down the face of the earth, seeking whom they may devour. A good specimen of the latter seems to be the King's Treasury Gold Mines, Limited, which is proposing to reconstruct and assess the shareholders 2s. 6d. per 10s. share. The company was formed to amalgamate the Carlyle Consolidated Gold Mines (Westralia) with the El Mundo (Mexico) Gold Mining Company, shareholders in the former being mulcted 5s. in the £ and those in the latter 12s. 6d. The Westralian properties are abandoned and the Mexican closed down. Subsequently the company adventured into the Gold Coast Colony, then into Northern Nigeria; and apparently with the object of completing the circuit of the world and continuing to pay directors' fees, it is now proposed to acquire a property in Cornwall. We believe this record was beaten by the old Glenrock of glorious memory, but the King's Treasury (?) must take a good place.

Coconut Shies.

Some months ago we had occasion to refer to the efforts which a Mr. L. Sydenham (late Secretary and Assistant Bursar of the United Services College, Westward Ho!) was making to interest members of the United Service Club in coconut shies. He is still at it. If they pay the money they can have their choice of any number of coconuts to shy at. Malabar Estates and Planting Company, Limited, was among the first to be pushed, but it evidently did not produce the "chips" although many weeks later Mr. L. Sydenham was talking about the shares being dealt in at 25 to 50 per cent. premium. Other concerns have blossomed out since then; the Eastern Palm Estates and Trading Syndicate, Limited, appears to be the founder, while "parent" companies and subsidiaries are inextricably mixed up, including the Malabar, the Coconut Development and Finance Corporation and the Straits Coconut and Copra Company. There is an alleged contract for the supply of 10,000,000 or 12,000,000 coconuts per annum, which is shuttlecocked between the various companies mentioned and it is impossible to say which is supposed to have the benefit of it. Not that it matters much, but it would look better if Mr. L. Sydenham pinned his faith to one or the other, and we make him a present of the suggestion. Moving targets, we know, but kaleidoscopic coconut shies are decidedly bewildering.

Cinema Finance.

Completing our records of registrations of cinema companies during the past year, we observe that the 45 new concerns formed in December with an aggregate capital of £397,800 bring the total for 1913 to 544 new companies representing £2,954,700 of capital. The crash is therefore likely to be nearer now than ever. Cambridge Electric Theatre, Limited, and the Holloway Cinematograph Theatre, Limited, are amongst recent liquidations, whilst a receiver has been appointed to the Counties Electric Theatres, Limited, and charges over assets have been given by the Acme Picture Palace Company, Limited, Associated Electric Theatres, Limited, Grand Cinema (Paddington), Limited; Moorlands Picture Palace Company (Burslem), Limited; and Stretford Picturedrome, Limited.

Government Life Assurance.

In a recent issue we ventured the opinion that the introduction of "State" Insurance providing death benefit on an enlarged scale, was merely a matter of time—and organisation. Our view is confirmed, but in another direction, by Sir Gerald Ryan, of the Phœnix Assurance Company, who is reported to have expressed the belief that eventually the Government will be compelled to take over the whole of the Industrial Insurance of the country. That sweeping reform of the existing "debit" system and the inequitable conditions associated with industrial policies is urgently called for, has been asserted over and over again in our columns, and the passing over in silence of our criticisms by the companies and societies concerned may be left to tell its own sad story of wrongs endured, homes wrecked, lives sacrificed, and heartless confiscation of hard-earned savings of the poor under millions of lapsed policies.

Mammoth Football Prizes again offered—£1,500, £500, £150 & £50. Page 31.

Racing Notes.

Throughout last week, the London markets on the Lincolnshire and Grand National were drawn blank. This is unusual with only a month to go before the time of decision of these big races, but undoubtedly the times of pre-post betting are rapidly disappearing, and we may come to a day when the races named will provoke no more preliminary excitement than at present do the Northumberland Plate, the Chester Cup, or the Ebor Handicap—all of which at one time were discussed weeks in advance. Nobody seems to know anything yet about the Lincolnshire, whilst in the National the average man believes there are only two live candidates, these being Covert Coat and Lutteur III. For the flat race, Cuthbert is reported as doing well at Newmarket, where also Sir Martin is in good work. With the return of some of the big operators from the South of France, no doubt some stir will soon be made, but the man who jumps in yet awhile—unless, indeed, he has real, sound, inside information—will be exceedingly foolish.

This week's fixtures are at Windsor and Sandown Park. At the latter venue there is an ordinary day on Thursday, to be followed by the two days of the Grand Military, that most popular of all jumping meetings. At Windsor to-day (Wednesday), GROWLER may win the Weir Maiden Steeplechase, THE LAST the Royal Steeplechase, and TENBURY the Claremont Steeplechase.

At Sandown, on Thursday, AXLE PIN, if the chosen of the Royston Stable, should take the Liverpool Trial Steeplechase. The Coronation Steeplechase should fall to CLONDALKIN, and the Warren Hurdle to WRACK.

One needs to go cautiously at the Military meeting, for outsiders have a happy knack of upsetting apparently good things. On Friday, EBONETTE, with Captain McCalmont up, should secure the Gold Cup. FINNIGAN may take the Past and Present Steeplechase, and WRACK, if kept for this, will win the Sandown Maiden Open Hurdle. On Saturday, SPEEDY FOX* in the Grand Military Steeplechase, should prove the best thing of the week, and DARK COLLAR ought to be good enough to win the Maiden Steeplechase.

The big open event of the meeting is of course the Imperial Cup on Saturday, and this

BRIERY

should win, being exceptionally well just now.

Football Fancies.

By "McW."

Saturday's Cup Tie results persuade me that my fancy, Burnley, is still a good thing, especially as the favourites, Blackburn Rovers, got the knock. There is always comedy in the defeat of the "good thing" but there is an element of tragedy in the downfall of the present League leaders.

The two greatest professionals in English football, during the last twenty years, have been Steve Bloomer and Bob Crompton. The glories of the game have been their. Their International caps are sufficient to make a splendid window show, and yet these two fortunates must be terribly soured of fate. We may take it that the great Bloomer's days in first-class football are numbered. When he makes his farewell bow it will be with the consciousness that he has been denied that on which he had set his heart, a "Final" gold medal.

Bob Crompton will probably have a few more years in class football, but it is unlikely that he will have so rosy a chance again, as seemed likely this season, of figuring in the crowning game at the Crystal Palace. Bob, like Steve, has been denied the glory of a Cup Final medal. Manchester City "did him the dirty" when they went to Ewood Park and beat the best team of to-day on its own ground. Were I Bob, I feel that I would look upon Manchester as a place accursed. Is it not a tragedy that two of the greatest football players that ever lived have been unable to secure that Final Gold Medal whilst youngsters, who come to-day and go to-morrow, obtain it at the first time of asking?

Football form at present is going a bit awry. Who would have believed that Bradford could overwhelm Fulham playing at home, or that Queen's Park Rangers would have triumphed at Birmingham, or that the bowl Glossop would have defeated the Fosse at Leicester, or that Woolwich Arsenal would have failed so signally at Lincoln? What a game!

I have had many visitors to view our methods of conducting our Football Competition Department, and in every instance they have gone away perfectly satisfied. My invitation to *you* still holds good. I shall be pleased to see you any day, bar Sunday.

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Football Selections from the Principal Papers.

Matches to be played Saturday, 28th February, 1914.

In view of the enormous interest now taken in the competitions conducted by numerous papers, the following table of selections compiled from the principal football authorities will be found to be an extremely useful guide—

	Matches played on ground of first-named team.	Last Season's Result.	JOHN BULL	The Umpire.	Weekly Dispatch.	News of The World.	Competitors' Guide.	Sunday Chronicle.	Sporting Gossip.	Lethge's Weekly.
FIRST LEAGUE.	Blackburn R. v. Tottenham H. ..	Blackburn won.	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Bolton W. v. Middlesbrough ..	Bolton won.	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Burnley v. Preston North End ..	Draw.	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Home
	Chelsea v. Aston Villa	Aston V. won.	Home	Draw	Away	Away	Draw	Away	Away	Away
	Everton v. Manchester C. ..	Draw.	Draw	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Manchester U. v. Newcastle U. ..	Manchester won.	Home	Home	Draw	Draw	Home	Draw	Home	Home
	Oldham A. v. Liverpool	Oldham won.	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Sheffield W. v. Sheffield U. ..	Sheffield W. won.	Away	Away	Home	Home	Away	Away	Home	Home
	Sunderland v. Bradford City ..	Sunderland won.	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	West Bromwich A. v. Derby C. ..	Draw.	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
SECOND LEAGUE.	Birmingham v. Huddersfield T. ..	Birmingham won.	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Bradford v. Notts County	No match.	Home	Draw	Draw	Home	Draw	Away	Draw	Home
	Bristol City v. Bury	Bury won.	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Away	Home	Home	Draw
	Clapton v. Hull City	Clapton won.	Draw	Home	Away	Draw	Draw	Away	Home	Home
	Glossop v. Wolverhampton W...	Wolves won.	Home	Draw	Home	Away	Draw	Home	Home	Home
	Grimsby T. v. Lincoln City ..	Draw.	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Leeds City v. Barnsley	Leeds C. won.	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Home
	Notts Forest v. Fulham ..	Fulham won.	Away	Away	Home	Draw	Away	Away	Draw	Home
	Woolwich Arsenal v. Blackpool ..	No match.	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Stockport v. Leicester Fosse ..	Leicester won.	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
SOUTHERN LEAGUE.	Watford v. Bristol Rovers ..	Watford won.	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Coventry City v. Merthyr Town ..	Merthyr won.	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Crystal Palace v. West Ham U. ..	Draw.	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Reading v. Plymouth Argyle ..	Plymouth won.	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Southampton v. Queen's P.R. ..	Q.P.R. won.	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Draw	Draw	Away
	Swindon T. v. Swindon T. ..	Swindon won.	Home	Away	Home	Home	Away	Away	Home	Away
	Luton Town v. Norwich City ..	No match.	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Northampton v. Exeter City ..	Northampton won.	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Southend U. v. Millwall A. ..	No match.	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Away	Draw	Draw	Away
	Brighton & H.A. v. Portsmouth..	Brighton won.	Home	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Home

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Premier Prizes this season have been awarded as follows:—

Sept. 1st Contest (no tens predicted) 14 nines gained £17 17s. 1d.

" 6th " (no tens predicted) 38 nines gained £6 11s. 6d.

The above results—no tens for two successive contests—constitute a record for Continental Competitions.

Sept.	13th	Contest	2	tens	gained	£125	0s. 0d.
"	20th	"	5	"	"	50	0 0
"	27th	"	117	"	"	2	2 8
Oct.	4th	"	53	"	"	4	16 4
"	11th	"	8	"	"	31	5 0
"	18th	"	41	"	"	6	1 11
"	25th	"	2	"	"	125	0 0
Nov.	1st	"	5	"	"	50	0 0
"	8th	"	3	"	"	83	6 8
"	15th	"	2	"	"	125	0 0
"	22nd	"	15	"	"	16	13 4
"	29th	"	17	"	"	14	14 1
Dec.	6th	"	10	"	"	25	0 0
"	13th	"	8	"	"	31	5 0
"	20th	"	40 nines (No tens predicted.)	"		6	5 0
"	27th	"	1 ten	"		250	0 0
Jan.	3rd	"	10 tens	"		25	0 0

THIS ADVERTISEMENT WILL NOT APPEAR AFTER Feb. 28th.

H. T. TERRY,

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The following correct claims have been received:—

Mr. W. H. WHERRITT 27, Arthur Street, Wombro Bridge, Barnsley. January 31st. No. 441,429.

Mr. F. K. BURGES, 62, Chessel Street, Bedminster, Bristol. January 24th. No. [illegible]

Mr. W. L. HARVEY, Haywood-st., Brimington, nr. Chesterfield. January 21st. No. [illegible]

Mr. SMITH, 13, Higham Street, Bellevue Road, Totterdown, Bristol. January 31st. No. 946,811.

Mr. E. RACE, Workmen's Rest, Ammanford, Carmarthenshire. January 31st. No. [illegible]

Mr. H. W. YOUNG, 68, Emmadale Road, Westham, Weymouth. January 24th. No. [illegible]

Mr. A. BUCKING, 5, Weston Place, Guildford Street, Birmingham. [illegible]

Mr. C. [illegible]LEY, 139, Sandringham Road, Hackney, N.E. January 31st. No. [illegible]

Mr. B. [illegible] CHAPMAN, 16, Salisbury Road, St. Anne's Park, Bristol January 31st. No. 479,470.

Mr. J. [illegible]LESTON, 11, Nigel Road, Forest Gate, E. February 7th. No. [illegible]

Mr. E. [illegible]N, 5, Connaught Road, Reading. January 31st. No. 960,100.

Mr. R. S. [illegible]UDMORE, 37, Claude Road, Roath, Cardiff. February 7th. No. [illegible]

Mr. R. [illegible]RONNE, 6, Coronation Terrace, Larne, co. Antrim, Ireland. January [illegible] No. 606,269.

The [illegible] are the fifty numbers for our issue of February 21:—

32573	207197	358490	520946	811054
14919	229585	371858	572294	838743
21023	261150	394017	596557	894712
53909	272576	404845	618220	916497
69901	274634	419628	625129	942712
79286	282195	424660	678421	966063
93288	304657	449578	708140	976314
14125	319206	468804	732160	A000731
25883	322977	488828	736768	A001660
73203	338739	511674	774228	A001982

The A prefixed to a drawn number indicates it is plus a million.

The Fifty Numbers in respect of this week will be announced in our next issue (published on March 6th).

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Following are names of a few Winners of Totalisator Prizes.

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£700	" "	Miss J. Morton, 9, Sussex Mansions, South Kensington, London.
£1,000	" "	A. Bridgman, Esq., 59, High Street, Highgate, London, N.
£1,152	" "	A. Troughton, Esq., 12, Central Markets, London, E.C.
£600	" "	A. E. de Souza, Esq., 44, Colby Road, Gipsy Hill, London, S.E.
£625 8s.	" "	Lord Auckland, The Burrow, Howard Road, Bournemouth.
£700	" "	John Aherne, Esq., Main Street, Charleville, Co. Cork, Ireland.
£1,512	" "	Mrs. Burgess, 43, Ridgmount Gardens, London, W.
£600	" "	John A. Dodworth, Esq., 190, Sheffield Road, Wadsley Bridge, Sheffield.
£125 10s.	" "	John Cotton, Esq., Golf Hotel, Crail, Scotland.
£1000	" "	Mrs. Miller, Littlewick Green, Maidenhead.
£500	" "	Nigel Walker, Esq., Bealings, near Woodbridge, Suffolk.
£1,000	" "	Miss W. M. Everitt, 7, Admiralty Road, Portsmouth.

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Matches to be played Saturday, February 28th, 1914.

Sheffield W.	v. Sheffield U.	Notts F.	v. Fulham.
Bradford	v. Notts. C.	Norwich	v. Swindon T.
Bristol C.	v. Bury	Reading	v. Plymouth
Clapton O.	v. Hull C.	Southampton	v. Queen's P.
Glossop	v. Wolves	Kilmarnock	v. Airdrieonians

Falkirk v. Celtic

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Agents for the Colonies—Gordon & Gotch, Ltd., London, Australia, Canada, etc. South Africa—Central News Agency, Ltd.
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